



IDAHO Driver's Manual

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Idaho Transportation Department
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Boise, ID 83707-1129

Cover photo: South Fork of the Payette River, between Banks and Lowman near Garden Valley.

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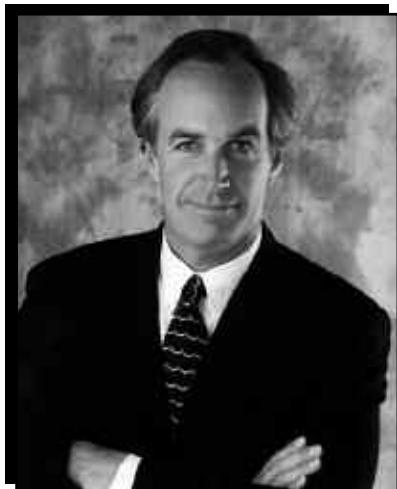
Boise, ID 83707-1129

March 1999

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<p>This handbook paraphrases the language of the Idaho Motor Vehicle Code. Courts go by the actual language of the code, not this text.</p>



Dirk Kempthorne
Governor



Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83701

Dear Idahoan:

Idaho's roads and highways provide a safe and convenient means of travel for Idaho residents, as well as those visiting or traveling through our beautiful state. Whether you are driving over a mountain pass or through a pristine desert, Idaho's motor vehicle laws, regulations, and driver's license procedures are designed to help you reach your destination safely.

Operating a motor vehicle on Idaho roadways is an enjoyable experience, but doing so safely requires that you know and understand driving laws and practices. This manual is designed to provide you with that knowledge. By studying the information on the following pages, you will understand Idaho's basic motor vehicle laws and rules of the road, and learn valuable safe-driving practices.

An Idaho driver's license allows you to take your place alongside the other drivers of our great state. We must all take an active role in promoting driver safety. By working together, we will keep Idaho's roads and highways a safe and enjoyable place to drive. Please remember to wear your safety restraints.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in black ink.

Dirk Kempthorne
Governor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Licensing Information1-1

Who Needs an Idaho License	1-1
Types of Class D Licenses	1-2
Driver Training	1-3
Where to Get a License or ID Card	1-3
Identity Cards	1-4
Requirements for an Idaho Driver's License or ID Card	1-5
What Should You Bring?	1-6
What Exams Must You Pass?	1-7
Extensions and Renewals	1-8

Chapter 2: Vehicle Title and Registration ..2-1

Who Must Title and Register	2-1
Timeframe to Title	2-1
Liability Insurance Requirements	2-3
Documents	2-3

Chapter 3: How to Protect Your Driving Privilege3-1

Suspension and Point System	3-2
Restricted Driving Permits	3-4

Chapter 4: The Driving Task4-1

Good Habits	4-1
Defensive Driving	4-2
Following Distances	4-4
Signals	4-5
Handling Emergencies	4-7
Accidents and the Law	4-11

Chapter 5: Sharing the Road5-1

Chapter 6: The Driver6-1

Your Mood Affects Your Driving	6-1
Drinking and Driving	6-2
Alcohol Tests and the Law	6-4
Mandatory DUI License Suspensions	6-4
Drugs and Driving	6-7
Driver Age and Accidents	6-8
Tips for Senior Citizens	6-9

Chapter 7: Traffic Laws	7-1
Stopping	7-1
Speed	7-3
Right of Way and Yielding	7-4
Passing and Being Passed	7-6
Parking	7-7
Turns	7-9
Other Laws You Need to Know	7-11

Chapter 8: Signs, Signals, and Pavement Markings	8-1
Traffic Signs	8-1
Regulatory Signs	8-2
Pavement Markings	8-6
Railroad Crossings	8-8

Chapter 9: Adjusting to Driving Conditions	9-1
Night Driving	9-1
Fog, Smoke, Dust, or Rain	9-2
Rain and Hydroplaning	9-2
Winter Driving	9-3
Mountain Driving	9-4
Wildlife Areas	9-4

Chapter 10: Freeway Driving	10-1
------------------------------------	-------------

Chapter 11: A Safe Vehicle is Your Responsibility	11-1
Required Equipment	11-1
Child Restraints are Required	11-3
Seat Belts and Shoulder Straps	11-4
Studded Snow Tires	11-4

Chapter 12: Bicycles	12-1
-----------------------------	-------------

Chapter 13: Skills Tests	13-1
---------------------------------	-------------

Index	I-1
--------------	------------

CHAPTER 1

LICENSING INFORMATION



In our mobile society, most people must drive to get from one place to another. As a result, streets are crowded and traffic is complex. That's why we must license drivers - to make sure they know how to operate their vehicles safely.

It takes time and practice to become a safe driver. You must learn to make the right decisions and how to get along with other drivers. You'll need to know the "rules of the road," Idaho traffic laws, and all the signs and signals that allow traffic to flow smoothly and safely. There's a lot of old-fashioned common sense involved, too. Learn to drive safely. Your life, as well as the lives of your family, friends, and fellow citizens, depends on it.

Who needs an Idaho license?

- All Idaho residents (whose domiciles are within Idaho's borders) who plan to drive a car, truck, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle.
- New residents who will be operating motor vehicles must obtain an Idaho license after establishing residency even if they hold a valid unexpired driver's license from another state. This can occur before 90 days but residency is considered established after living 90 continuous days in Idaho (**30 days for Commercial Drivers' licenses**). Military personnel and full-time students (including immediate family members) from other states may apply if they so choose. Proof of a domicile address (military papers, employment records, utility bills, lease agreements, real estate purchase agreements, etc.) satisfactory to the examiner or department may be required. A residence address cannot be a person's workplace, vacation or part-time residence or PO Box. Any license issued by other states, U.S. territories, Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia must be surrendered to the examiner when an Idaho license is issued. An international driver's license does not need to be surrendered.

Who doesn't need an Idaho license?

- Members of the U.S. military on active duty and their dependents who hold valid drivers' licenses from other states or countries.
- Students who claim residency in other states and hold valid drivers' licenses from their home states are not required to obtain an Idaho license.
- Non-residents age 15 or over who hold licenses from other states or countries may drive in Idaho for up to 90 days without an Idaho license with a daylight-only-until-16 restriction.

Types of Class D Licenses

- **Instruction permit:** Age requirement—15 years or older with satisfactory completion of an approved or accredited driver training program, or 17 years without driver training. It allows the holder to practice driving a motor vehicle for 180 days when accompanied by an adult holding a valid driver's license. A motorcycle instruction permit is available for individuals needing to learn how to operate a motorcycle (see the separate motorcycle manual for details).
- **Class D license:** Age requirement—17 years or older (15 with completion of an accredited driver training course). The daylight-only-until-16 restriction (1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset) is required for 15-year-old drivers. No nighttime permits are allowed. The Class D license allows the holder to drive motor vehicles on Idaho roads. Class D vehicles include vehicles under 26,000 pounds (GVWR) and not placarded for hazardous materials or not designed to carry 16 or more people, including the driver; taxis; limousines; military vehicles; recreational vehicles; farm vehicles not used for hire and if driven within 150 miles of the farm; and fire fighting and emergency equipment. For more detailed information on commercial driving applications and seasonal CDLs, see the Commercial Driver's License Manual or contact the driver's license examiner at your county sheriff's office. Motorcycle operators whose licenses are issued on or after September 1, 1994, must have an "M" endorsement on their Class D or Commercial Driver's License. A motorcycle means every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor and moped. If an internal-combustion engine is used, the engine displacement must be 51 cubic centimeters or more. Motorcycle operators must pass a written exam to add the endorsement. See the separate motorcycle manual (which can be obtained from the sheriff's office) for details.

Driver Training

Approved courses are available either through private or public schools. Most Idaho school districts offer driver training programs in cooperation with the state departments of education and transportation. The courses are open to all Idaho residents between the ages of 14 and 21, even if they are not public school students.

You can get a Driver Training Certificate at any driver's license (sheriff's) office by presenting the proper identification documents (see page 1-4). The training certificate will expire one year after the date it is issued. The fee is not refundable.

Driver training applicants who are under age 18 must obtain a proof-of-enrollment slip from their school district, diploma, or certificate of completion to bring with them when they apply for their certificate. Examiners may require the assistance of school administrators in determining the acceptability of certain documents. Otherwise the applicants will not be able to obtain the driver training certificates. If an applicant drops out of school at any time while taking the course, that will constitute an automatic failure of the course, and the applicant will not be permitted to continue. When signing a liability statement, parents will also be signing a statement attesting that the applicant is in compliance with the school attendance provision of Section 49-303A, Idaho Code.

If you are 14 years old and have completed Driver Training, you must wait until your 15th birthday to get a driver's license or instruction permit. For more information, contact your driver's license examiner at your county sheriff's office.

In order to meet Idaho's driver training requirements, approved and accredited driver training must consist of 30 clock-hours of classroom instruction, 6 hours of in-car observation in a driver training car, and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving with a driver training instructor.

Applicants who are under age 17 and who have completed driver training in another state, and who may or may not have an out-of-state driver's license, must provide proof of driver training completion showing what the course requirements were. If the course does not meet or exceed the Idaho requirements listed in the preceding paragraph, the applicant may have to make up the difference.

Where to get a license or identification card?

Idaho drivers' licenses and identity cards are issued by county sheriffs. You may apply at the most convenient sheriff's office.

Identity Cards

You may obtain a non-driving identity card at any sheriff's office, but you must be a resident of Idaho, and show proof of legal name, age, and residence address as set forth below. ID cards are valid for four years.

Requirements for an Idaho Driver's License or ID Card

Idaho considers a new applicant to be an individual who has never been licensed in Idaho, is returning to Idaho after being licensed in another state or jurisdiction, has never been licensed, or who is surrendering a non-verified driver's license/document.

New applicants for a driver's license, instruction permit, identification card, driver-training certificate, or commercial driver-training certificate are required to submit two or more primary and/or secondary documents (a certified original birth certificate and one document containing a photo [see document list below]) unless the applicant has a current, valid driver's license to surrender or an identification card (see #1 and #8 under Primary Documents below). Applicants with non-U.S. driver's licenses may be required to provide additional documents.

Applicants who are new to the state of Idaho and who have lost a valid out-of-state driver's license or ID card are required to provide documentation as outlined above to assist in identity verification. In addition, applicants who have lost drivers licenses may be asked to provide proof of a driver's license from their last state of issue showing their name, date of birth, driver's license number, issue date, and expiration date or submit to a road test. A road test will be necessary if the license has been expired for one year or more. **All documentation must be satisfactory to the examiner or the DMV.**

Applicants are subject to the following requirements:

- **New applicants for driver's license** - Social Security Card (in the applicant's current name), declaration of residency; proof of age and identity; surrender of any other driver's license held; proof of approved driver training course completion meeting Idaho Department of Education guidelines if under 17; and proof of enrollment in or graduation from a recognized school or program if under age 18. Examiners may require the assistance of school administrators in determining acceptance of certain documents. A parent or legal guardian must consent to a minor (under age 18) getting a driver's license. Legal guardians must show documents verifying guardianship and parents may be asked to show proof of identity. You may be asked for a visual and/or medical certification if you have a visual and/or physical condition that may impact your ability to operate a motor vehicle. You may be asked to take a road test.

- **Renewing license** - show Social Security Card (in the applicant's current name), surrender old license; if your license is missing, you'll need proof of residency, age, and identity. You may need to take a road test for visual and/or medical certification.
- **ID card** - Social Security Card (in the applicant's current name), proof of age, identity, certified original birth certificate, acceptable photo, and a declaration of Idaho residency. Proof of a domicile address may also be required. Surrender any other state DMV issued ID cards (see below).

What must you provide to the driver's license office?

- **A declaration of Idaho residency.** Proof of a domicile address satisfactory to the examiner or department may also be required, such as employment records, school enrollment records, utility bills, a lease or purchase agreement, etc. This must appear on the driver's license and I.D. card. A domicile address cannot be your workplace, vacation residence, or part-time residence.
- **Proof of age and identity:**
 - a. Primary Documents - The primary document must contain your full legal name and date of birth and must be verifiable as authentic (the examiner must be able to contact the issuing agency to determine the authenticity of the document). The following items are acceptable primary documents:
 1. Pictured state driver's license not expired more than one year (driver's license applicants do not need to provide any other documentation)
 2. Certified original or abstract birth certificate
 3. Valid Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) card
 4. U.S. military photo-ID card
 5. Native American tribal photo-ID card
 6. Valid passport with U.S. VISA
 7. Idaho ID card
 8. Out-of-state ID card not expired more than one year (applicants do not need to provide any other documents)
 9. Idaho Concealed Weapons Permit (not expired over one year)
 10. Pilot's License (with photo) that is not expired more than one year
 11. Pictured Veteran's Universal Access Card
 - b. Secondary Documents - The secondary document will assist in confirming your identity, and must contain your name and sufficient substantiating information for all/part of the information contained on the primary document. The following items are acceptable secondary documents:

1. U.S. military discharge paper (form # DD214)
2. Certified marriage license with seal and document number showing that it was recorded
3. Certified divorce document from a court or State Vital Statistics
4. Naturalization/citizenship document
5. Guardianship or custody documents (notarized or court certified)
6. Certified court name-change document
7. School transcript
8. Home school document
9. Junior or senior high school photo activity card (not college or university)
10. School, college, or military yearbook/annual
11. Printed photo directory of a religious organization
12. Newspaper clipping with photo and name (if you can be identified in the photo)
13. Salt Lake City Mexican Consulate-issued photo-identification card not expired and valid for five years
14. Pictured state driver's license or ID card expired for more than one year.
15. Verified work ID card with a photo (very few are verified—at county discretion)
16. Idaho dealer/salesman photo ID
17. Idaho Department of Corrections photo ID

NOTE:

- Either the primary or secondary document must contain a photo of you.
 - A valid out-of-state pictured license or ID card or pictured license not expired for more than one year is a stand-alone document when applying for an Idaho driver's license or ID card. (Exception: see d. below.)
- c. Foreign Documents - If your document is not written in English, you must have an accompanying acceptable English-language document or acceptable translation.
- d. Proof of Name Change - If you were previously licensed in Idaho under a different name than the one on the out-of-state driver's license/ID card being surrendered, the name shown on the out-of-state license or ID card will be honored unless there is a problem.

- **Social Security Card** - Bring your original Social Security Card issued by the Social Security Administration (you will not be issued a driver's license or ID card without a verified Social Security Number). The social security number does not appear on Idaho drivers' licenses or ID cards issued after 1-1-93.
- **Other driver's license**-You must surrender any driver's license issued to you from another state, U.S. territory, Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia; and if you have a CDL or are applying for an Idaho CDL, you must surrender any driver's license from Canada or Mexico.
- **One-license law** - Except as mentioned above, you do not need to surrender foreign licenses. However, once you are issued an Idaho driver's license, you are not to use or show a foreign license to an officer when stopped for a potential driving violation. You could receive a citation and a fine for using two driver's licenses.
- **Motor vehicle for road test** if one is required for you (see exam guidelines on pages 1-7 and 1-8). The vehicle must meet safety standards outlined in Chapter 11 and must be accompanied by a registration certificate and certificate of liability insurance.
- **Written parental consent** if you are under age 18. The liability signer cannot be a step-parent. Legal guardians must show guardianship papers, custody papers, adoption papers, or power of attorney to the examiner before they can be accepted as liability signers. The liability signer (mother, father, or legal guardian) must be present at the time of application. Liability signers can sign in the presence of a notary public if they are unable to be present at the time of application. If you are married, your spouse may sign for you if he/she is at least 18. The signer assumes legal responsibility for your actions as a driver. As long as you are under 18, the person who gives you the consent may also request that the state cancel your license.
- **Proof of an accredited driving training course completion** if you are under age 17.

Note: Some out-of-state driver training courses may not satisfy Idaho's requirements. Please check with the examiner to see if your driver training certificate meets Idaho standards (page 1-3).

- **Visual and/or medical certification** if you have a visual and/or physical condition that could affect your driving. Bring a letter from your physician certifying that you can operate a motor vehicle safely. The state provides a form called a *Certificate of Examination* for this purpose. This form may be obtained from the driver's license examiner at your county sheriff's office.

What exams must you pass to get a driver's license?

- **Vision screening:** Your eyesight will be tested and you must meet a minimum standard of 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or

without corrective lenses. If you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, bring them with you so you can wear them during the exam. If you wear glasses or contacts during the vision screening, a lens restriction will be placed on your license.

- **Written test:** First-time or out-of-state applicants and some others will be tested on their knowledge of Idaho traffic laws, highway signs, traffic signals, pavement markings, and equipment required on motor vehicles. A portion of the written test asks the applicant to identify signs by their shape and symbols appearing on them. All information needed to pass the test for a Class D license or instruction permit is included in this handbook. Applicants for Class A, B, C licenses must know information from the Commercial Driver's License Manual as well as this manual. Applicants needing the motorcycle endorsement "M" on their driver's license (required to operate a motorcycle with 51 CC engine displacement or more) must take the motorcycle written test even if their out-of-state license has the "M" endorsement or Class. You can study for the test by reading the motorcycle manual.
- **Road test:** The driver's license examiner may require you to take a road test to demonstrate your driving ability. Road tests are required if a driver's license is expired for one year or more; for first-time drivers who have not completed driver training; or if 90 days have elapsed since completion of driver's training or when the examiner has some reason to believe the applicant may lack the skills or knowledge necessary to drive safely. (See chapter 13 for skills-test information.) A motorcycle-safety rider course is required for applicants under age 21 who desire the motorcycle endorsement. A road test for the motorcycle endorsement will be waived until September 1, 1998 for applicants 21 years of age and over. After that date, a motorcycle road test will be required when adding the endorsement to a license for the first time. **If you fail a written and/or road test, you must wait three business days to retest and pay the fee again.**

Accommodation for Applicants with Disabilities

It is the policy of ITD and its agents that reasonable accommodations will be made to provide persons with disabilities equal accessibility to its facilities, programs, and services when specific needs are requested two (2) weeks in advance by contacting a county driver license examiner. Persons with hearing impairments may call 1-208-334-4458.

Extensions and Renewals

- **Extensions:** Your Idaho driver's license will expire on your birthday in the fourth year after it is originally issued as new or renewed. If you are temporarily out of state at that time, you may apply for an extension of up to 12 months. Commercial Driver's

Licenses (CDLs) can be extended, but hazardous materials endorsements (H) on CDLs cannot be extended. An extension cannot be done on a license that has been renewed by mail. If you're on active duty or a dependent of military personnel in the U.S. armed forces, you may apply for an extension of up to four years. Contact Driver Services, Idaho Transportation Department, PO Box 7129, Boise, Idaho 83707-1129, or call the Driver's License Unit at (208) 334-8736.

- **Renewal:** You may renew your Idaho license up to 364 days before the expiration date. If your license is about to expire or has expired recently, you may apply for a renewal at any sheriff's office. Your vision will be checked, but you will not have to take a written exam unless your record cannot be located. If the record of your issued driver's license cannot be located, then a road test will also be necessary. Most applicants for renewal will not have to take a road test, but one may be required if the examiner thinks it is needed. If your license has been expired for one year or more and has not been extended, you will be required to take the Idaho written test and the road test. If you possess a CDL then all pertinent CDL written tests must be taken as well if you want to retain the CDL. Exception: all drivers holding licenses from other states or countries will be treated as new applicants, even if they've previously held an Idaho license. They must take the Idaho written exam and may have to take a road test.

Renewing Your License by Mail

Idaho residents who are between the ages of 21 and 69 years of age, and holders of valid Idaho Class D driver's licenses may be eligible to renew their license by mail. This can be done one time in eight years, which means you must go to the driver's license office every other renewal period

FEES	
License Type	Fee
Renew by mail (Class D only)	\$21.50
Class D license or renewal	\$20.50
Class D instruction permit	\$11.50
Duplicate Class D license	\$11.50
Motorcycle endorsement	\$11.50
Identification card	\$ 7.50
Driver training course	\$30.00
Commercial driver training	\$10.00
Road test—and retakes*	\$15.00
Written test—and retakes*	\$ 3.00
Motorcycle skills test—and retakes*	\$ 5.00
CDL Tests (see CDL Manual)	

* For persons who fail to pass the written or road test, the fee will be required for each retake. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.

to renew your license in person. The department mails a renew-by-mail application packet to the address currently on file with the department 60 days in advance of your license's expiration date. (It is important to keep your address current with the department.) The application packet contains instructions, an application form, and a return envelope. You must complete the application form in its entirety (signed, dated, and the correct fee amount enclosed) or the renewal cannot be completed. If it is completed and approved you will receive a sticker that must be affixed to the back of your license for the license to be valid. If you want changes made to any information that appears on the face of your license (i.e. name, address, height, weight, etc.) you will need to renew your license in person. It costs \$1.00 extra (for sheriff's administrative fee) to renew your license by mail. Your license cannot be renewed by mail if it already has an extension on it. You do not have to renew your license by mail if you would prefer to do it in person.

Duplicates and Change of Address

- **Duplicate licenses:** If your Idaho license is lost, damaged, or destroyed, you may obtain a duplicate by applying at any sheriff's office. You must bring legal proof of your age and identity (page 1-4). If you have found your lost driver's license after a duplicate has been issued, you must surrender the found driver's license to Driver Services or the county sheriff's office. The duplicate becomes the license of record.
- **Change of address:** If you move to an address other than the one on your Idaho driver's license or ID card, you must (1) notify (in writing) Driver Services, Idaho Transportation Department, PO Box 7129, Boise, ID 83707-1129 within 30 days; or (2) complete a change-of-address form (available at any county sheriff's office). The change of address must be signed by the holder of the driver's license or ID card. If you desire the change of address to show on the license or ID card, a duplicate must be issued if the license or ID card is not eligible for renewal. If a P.O. Box, general delivery, highway contract (HC) route number, or rural route is used, a residence address must also be given. If any of these are changed, you must notify Driver Services.
- **Change of name:** If you want to change your name to a different one than is shown on your driver's license or identification card, you must apply for a duplicate or renewal license or identification card which can be done at any county sheriff's office. At that time, you will need legal proof of your new name, such as a certified marriage license, divorce decree, or court documents. This is also necessary for new applicants coming from out-of-state and for new applicants who have had a previous Idaho license but show a different name on an out-of-state license.

Your License and the Law

Whenever you drive, you must have your license with you. Any misuse of your driver's license or permit is a misdemeanor—you could be fined, sentenced to jail, or your license may be suspended. For your own protection, don't:

- lend anyone your license or permit.
- use anyone else's license or permit.
- display or possess a fraudulent license or permit.
- allow an unlicensed driver to drive your vehicle. In case of an accident, both the driver and owner are liable when permission to drive has been given.
- keep a license or permit if it has been suspended or canceled. If you're under age, it is against the law to use a falsified or fake license to obtain alcoholic beverages. Fraudulent use or misrepresentation of any information on an identification card or driver's license may result in suspension of your driving privileges.

Providing False Information

Answers to application questions about your driving record will be checked with the Idaho Transportation Department records in Boise and with the National Driver Register. If you knowingly provide false information on a driver's license application, you are subject to criminal prosecution for perjury and your license will be canceled.

Under 21

The driver's licenses and ID cards for those under 21 years of age will show "Under 21 until month/day/year." "Under 21" will also be stamped in red near the person's name in the address space.

Driver Privacy Protection Act (DPPA)

Under state and federal guidelines, applicants for Idaho driver's licenses or ID cards can request that their personal information contained in vehicle and driver records not be released to unauthorized parties. The request can be made at the time of application for a driver's license or ID card, or when registering or titling a vehicle. A driver's license examiner can tell you more at the time of application. You can also ask a driver's license office or ITD for a Request to Withhold Personal Information (form ITD-3864) which you can fill out and mail to ITD. You can also request an informational statement about the DPPA (form ITD-3869).

Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS)

When an application for a new driver's license or license renewal is made, the DMV computer will check the Problem Driver Pointer System, which is a replacement for the National Driver Register (NDR) to see if there are any outstanding license suspensions in other states. If there are, those suspensions must be cleared before a driver's license can be issued.

Voter registration information is available through the county driver's license office.

Donor Designation
Applicants for driver's licenses or identification cards who are 18 years of age or older may request to have the "DONOR" designation appear on the lower right corner of their card. The "DONOR" designation signifies your wish to donate your organs and tissues upon your death to those waiting for transplants. The driver's license office has more information about the donor program.

"Daylight Only" for driver's license restriction purposes is defined as 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

When you apply for a driver's license, you may request a card with a statement of any medical condition from which you suffer. This card may be carried with your driver's license. You must sign a statement that the condition exists.

1-12

CHAPTER 2



VEHICLE TITLE AND REGISTRATION

The title is the legal ownership document for the vehicle. It displays the name and address of the owner and any lien holder, i.e. a bank or credit union that financed the vehicle, and to whom money is currently owed.

The registration is a document indicating that the proper fees have been paid and authorizing the vehicle to be operated on Idaho roads. Prior to registering your vehicle, you will need to have the vehicle titled in your name in Idaho, or you must submit the documents necessary to apply for an Idaho title in your name.

Who must title and register their vehicles in Idaho?

Prior to operating their vehicles on Idaho's roads, **Idaho residents** must title and register their vehicles. You are considered to be an Idaho resident, for titling and registration purposes, if you have obtained a driver's license in Idaho. You are an Idaho resident if your domicile has been in Idaho continuously for at least 90 consecutive days, and you are not a full-time student who is a resident of another state. (A domicile does not include a person's workplace, vacation or part-time residence.) You may declare residency even if you have moved to Idaho less than 90 days ago, or if you are a full-time student who is a resident of another state.

Within what timeframe must a vehicle be titled?

Idaho residents must title a vehicle that is purchased in Idaho within 30 days of the purchase. Applying for a title after that period will result in a \$20 late-filing penalty.

Idaho residents must title a vehicle that is purchased outside of Idaho within 30 days of entering Idaho to avoid the \$20.00 late-filing penalty.

Vehicle owners moving to Idaho who have not had their vehicles titled in another jurisdiction must apply for Idaho titles within 120 days of entering Idaho to avoid the \$20.00 late-filing penalty.

Vehicle owners moving to Idaho who have had their vehicles titled in their names in another jurisdiction must apply for Idaho titles upon becoming Idaho residents.

What is titled and registered? What is not?

Generally, any vehicle that is operated on Idaho roadways **must be titled and registered**. This includes:

- Passenger cars
- Trucks (utility, commercial, motor homes, etc.)
- Motorcycles
- Recreational trailers
- Utility and boat trailers weighing 2,000 lbs or more (unladen weight)
- Construction or wrecking cranes (registered as a commercial vehicles)
- Drilling rigs (registered as a commercial vehicles)

Some items **cannot be titled or registered**. These include:

- Construction equipment other than cranes
- Wheel-mounted equipment (air compressors, wood chippers, tar buckets, tow dollies, portable toilet trailers, combines, discs, hay balers, etc.)
- Bicycles
- Golf carts
- Self-propelled wheelchairs, invalids' tricycles, wheelchair conveyance units
- Mopeds with engine size not exceeding 50 cc's

Some items **may or may not be titled and/or registered**, depending on circumstances. For these, you will need to contact your county auto licensing office for clarification:

- Mobile homes and manufactured homes
- Office trailers
- Concession stands
- Street sweepers
- ATVs and off-road vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes

Some items **must be titled, but may or may not be registered**. They do require the purchase of a recreational vehicle sticker. They include:

- ATVs (registered if operated on highways)
- Off-road motorbikes (registered if operated on highways)

Utility trailers under 2,000 lbs **are required to be registered, but are not titled.**

Snowmobiles are **required to be titled, but are not registered.** However, they do require the purchase of a recreational vehicle sticker.

How Much Liability Insurance Must I Have?

When you register your vehicle, you must sign a statement certifying that the vehicle is and will be insured as required by Section 49-117(17), Idaho Code. Your policy must provide the following minimum coverage:

- \$25,000 for injury or death of one person;
- \$50,000 for injury or death of two or more people; and
- \$15,000 for property damage.

Where may a title application be completed?

If a vehicle was purchased from an Idaho dealer, that dealer is required to prepare and submit the documents necessary to obtain a title in the purchaser's name.

If a vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was financed by an Idaho financial institution, that institution will usually prepare and submit the documents necessary to secure a title in the purchaser's name, showing the financial institution's lien.

If a vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was financed by a financial institution from another state, that financial institution will generally forward the titling documents to the county assessor auto licensing office in the county in which the owner has moved. The owner will then need to go to this office to sign a title application.

If a vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was not financed by a financial institution, the owner will normally need to take his titling documents to a county assessor vehicle licensing office to have a title application completed and filed. Find the vehicle licensing office in your area by consulting your telephone directory. Look under the listings for your county assessor or under "county government."

What documents must be surrendered to obtain an Idaho title?

If you are filing for a title in your name at the county assessor's office, you will need to provide the following documents:

1. **A title or manufacturer's certificate of origin for the vehicle.** This is your legal ownership document. If you purchased a new vehicle from an out-of-state dealer, you should have a manufacturer's certificate of origin (MCO) for the vehicle. If you purchased a used vehicle, you should have the title that was issued in the seller's name. Either document should be properly assigned to you by the previous owner shown on that document. If there is a lien recorded on the title, the lien must be released either on the title or on a separate form.

Note: If the previous owner was an Idaho resident, he must have a title *issued* in his name before you can obtain an Idaho title. If he appears as the purchaser on a title or MCO, you may not apply for a title until he has first titled the vehicle in his name.

2. **A Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) affidavit of inspection.** If the vehicle is new or was titled by another state or jurisdiction, a VIN inspection must be provided. This is to ensure that your new title is issued with the correct description, and most importantly, the true VIN. This inspection may be completed by an officer of the law or a county deputy assessor.
3. **An odometer disclosure statement.** The seller must provide you with this if the vehicle is motorized, less than 10 years old, and under 16,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight. An odometer disclosure statement is a declaration of the number of miles the vehicle has been operated, along with a designation as to whether these miles are actual, not actual, or exceed mechanical limits. The disclosure must be made on the title (if there is a place for it), otherwise it may be provided on a separate form.
4. **A Bill of Sale.** The seller must provide you with a bill of sale for the vehicle, in which he declares the amount of money for which the vehicle was sold to you. Sometimes the title has an area for this information (i.e. most blue Idaho titles). Otherwise a separate bill of sale form must be submitted, which is signed by the seller, shows you as the buyer, and lists the vehicle year, make, identification number, selling price, date, and seller's address.
5. **Documents authorizing a signature.** Whenever someone has signed for someone else, the documents which authorize that person to do so must be submitted. For example, if the seller appointed someone else to sell the vehicle for him by power of attorney, and that person signed the title on behalf of the seller, the power of attorney must be submitted. Either the original or a copy verified to be a true copy of the original must accompany the title.

6. **An application for title.** This document is available at any county assessor auto licensing office. It will be prepared for you by a deputy assessor at the time you submit your other titling documents.
7. **Sales tax, title fee, and other fees.** 5% sales tax is due on the purchase price of the vehicle, unless you qualify for a special exemption. An \$8.00 title fee must also be paid at the time the title application is prepared. If the county completed a VIN inspection for you, a \$3.00 fee will be due. Additionally, if you were an Idaho resident when you purchased the vehicle, and it has been more than 30 days since you made the purchase, a \$20.00 late filing penalty is also due.

What is the difference between leasing a vehicle and purchasing a vehicle?

If you purchase a vehicle, and title it in your name, you become the owner of the vehicle. If you finance the purchase, you remain the owner, and the lienholder becomes the legal owner. If you lease a vehicle, you should be shown on the title as the lessee, but you are not recognized as being the owner. The lessor is the owner.

At the end of a lease, you may have the option of purchasing the vehicle. If you exercise the option, and retitle the vehicle in your name, removing the name of the lessor, you will become the owner of the vehicle.

What are the titling requirements for leased vehicles?

Titling requirements for leased vehicles are the same as for other vehicles. If you are leasing a vehicle from an Idaho leasing company, that company should address these requirements.

If you have been leasing a vehicle in another state, and have moved to Idaho, title requirements remain the same. You will need to make arrangements with the lessor to send the title to the county assessor auto licensing office you wish to visit. The lessor must have an Idaho seller's permit number so that he can collect the Idaho sales or use tax due on your lease payments.

What Should I Do When I Sell a Vehicle?

You should provide the buyer with the following documents at the time of delivery:

- 1. The vehicle's title, issued in your name.** Unless you have a dealer's license issued by the Idaho Transportation Department, you must title the vehicle in your name before selling it. Enter your signature on the "seller's signature" line, and enter the date of the sale in the "date sold" field.

If the vehicle is less than ten years old, the odometer reading should also be filled in. Enter the number shown on the odometer device. Check the "in excess of mechanical limits" box if the odometer device has "turned over" or "flipped" and some multiple of 100,000 should be added to the number shown on your device to arrive at the correct mileage. Check the "not actual" box if the mileage shown on the odometer device does not reflect the actual number of miles the vehicle has been operated (i.e. the device is no longer working), or it was not working during an earlier period of time. If there is no place on the title for an odometer disclosure statement, complete a separate form.

If there is a place to enter the "selling price" on the front of the title, do so. If not, create a bill of sale (see below)..

- 2. Bill of sale.** If you create a bill of sale, be sure to enter a statement of sale ("I hereby sell. . ."), a full description of the vehicle (year, make, model number, and vehicle identification number), the buyer's name, the selling price, your signature, and the date.

You may wish to keep a copy of the bill of sale (signed by the buyer) for your own records. List the time and date of delivery as proof of when you gave up possession and control of the vehicle.

Additionally, within five days of delivery, you will need to file a release-of-liability statement with the Idaho transportation Department, along with a \$2.00 fee. By doing so, you will be relieved of liability for motor vehicle accidents caused by negligence of the buyer/transferee while operating the vehicle. *Notice of Release-of-Liability* forms are available at any County Assessor's auto-licensing office. In the future the form will be found on the back of your registration form, and as a tear-strip on your title. If you have access to the internet, you can obtain the form from DMV's home page at:



This form must be filed with all nonconforming Titles

ODOMETER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Federal law requires that you state the mileage upon transfer of ownership. Failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

Transferor's/Sellers Printed Name _____,

(No Tenths)

_____, state that the
odometer now reads _____ miles/kilometers and

☐ to the best of my knowledge that it reflects the actual mileage of the vehicle described below, unless one of the following statements is checked.

☐ a. I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge the odometer reading reflects the amount of mileage in excess of its mechanical limits.

b. I hereby certify that the odometer reading is *NOT* the actual mileage. **WARNING - ODOMETER DISCREPANCY.**

Make

Model

Body Type

Year

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

Transferor's/Seller's Signature

Date of Statement

Transferor's/Seller's Address

City

State

Zip Code

TRANSFeree/BUYER

Vehicle Description

Transferee's/Buyer's Signature

Transferee's Printed Name

Transferee's/Buyer's Address

City

State

Zip Code



BILL OF SALE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: DATE: _____

That in consideration of _____ \$ _____
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned
(seller) does hereby sell, transfer and deliver unto

_____ (buyer)
his right and interest in and to the following described vehicle:

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____

MOTOR NUMBER: _____ MAKE: _____

BODY TYPE: _____ YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

Federal law requires seller(s) to certify to the best of his/her
knowledge the odometer reading at time of sale.

ODOMETER READING _____

The said seller hereby warrants that he/she/they are the lawful
owner of said vehicle; that it is free from all liens and encumbrances,
except lien* in favor of

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
------	---------	------	-------	-----

(* if no lien exists, write the words "No Exception" in blank space); that he/she/they will warrant
and defend the title of same against any claims and demands all persons whomsoever, except
lienholder noted above.

SIGNATURE OF SELLER(S) _____

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
---------	------	-------	-----

ITD-3858TW 01-97TW
01-968310-1

\$2.00 Fee **NOTICE OF RELEASE OF LIABILITY** **\$2.00 Fee**
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY — ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETE — NOTIFICATION BY SELLER IS MANDATORY

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)	Year	Make	Body Style	Title Number
-------------------------------------	------	------	------------	--------------

Seller's Full Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Odometer: _____ Selling Price: \$ _____ Date Vehicle Delivered to Purchaser(s): _____	Purchaser's Full Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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*** Remove your plates upon sale or transfer!**

I/we hereby request that the Idaho Transportation Department mark its motor vehicle records to indicate that I/we have transferred the vehicle described above under the provisions of Section 49-526, Idaho Code, which addresses vehicle transfers. However, I/we understand that the motor vehicle record will remain in my name until a new Idaho Certificate of Title is applied for and issued recording the name of the new owner.

Signature of Seller(s): **X** _____

FEE: \$2.00 Please remit fee in the form of a check, cashiers check, or money order made payable to the Idaho Transportation Department.
DO NOT MAIL CASH (SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

CHAPTER 3

HOW TO PROTECT



YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGE

Driving is a privilege that can be taken away if you break certain laws or become a careless driver. Beware; even if you have not been issued a driver's license, your future driving privileges can be suspended, canceled, or revoked, because driving records are maintained even for drivers who have not been issued a driver's license. The Transportation Department keeps a record of your accidents and moving violations, including those occurring in other states. If your record indicates that you have been an unsafe driver, you can lose your license under Idaho's "point system."

Driver License Compact and Non-Resident Violator Compact

Idaho is a member of the **Driver License Compact**, which is an agreement among member states to promote compliance with the laws, ordinances, and administrative actions regarding the operation of motor vehicles by drivers in states that are members of the compact.

Membership is a major step necessary to maximize law enforcement efforts against drunk drivers and other serious traffic offenders. Under this compact, serious offenses and minor moving violations will be forwarded to a driver's home state and action will be taken as if the violation occurred in the driver's home state. If you are convicted of a traffic offense in another state, the information on that offense will be sent to Idaho and placed in your driving record. If it is a suspendible offense, you will be suspended by Idaho.

Idaho is also a member of the **Non-Resident Violator Compact**, which is an agreement among member states to suspend drivers for failure to pay

traffic citations issued by other member states. Under this compact, the issuing state will forward a notice of non-compliance to the driver’s home state. The home state will suspend the driver’s privileges until the terms of the citation have been complied with.

The compact has several benefits for drivers; it allows them to be released on personal recognizance, and does not require them to appear before a judge or post a bond at the time citations are issued.

Alcohol Tests and “Implied Consent”

When you apply for and receive a driver’s license, you consent to take a test for alcohol concentration if arrested for driving under the influence. When arrested, you may refuse to take the test, but, if you do, your license can be seized by the officer and suspended for 180 days for a first offense. For more information, see Chapter 6.

Suspension and Point System

Your driving record is evaluated by a system in which you receive one to four points for each moving violation (see examples on following page).

Under the point system, the department may take the following action against you:

Number of points	Penalty
8 to 11 in any 12 months	Warning letter
12 to 17 in any 12 months	30-day suspension
18 to 23 in any 24 months	90-day suspension
24 or more in any 36 months	6-month suspension

Once every three years, you may remove three points from your point total by completing an approved defensive-driving class. If you remove points from your record by completing one of these classes, you will not be able to do so again until three years after the date you completed the class. Completing a defensive-driving class will not remove a driving conviction from your record. If you want to avoid suspension, you must take the class before you're suspended (once you lose your license, it's too late for the class to affect that suspension).

Defensive-driving classes are offered in several Idaho cities. Contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise for information at (208) 334-8736.

Other Reasons for Suspension

Judges and the Idaho Transportation Department are authorized under state

VIOLATION POINT COUNT USED IN EVALUATING DRIVER'S PERFORMANCE

CONVICTIONS REPORTED BY COURT	POINT COUNT
NO PASSING ZONE	4
STARTING PARKED VEHICLE	2
LIMITATIONS ON BACKING	1
DRIVERS TO EXERCISE DUE CARE	3
DRIVING THROUGH SAFETY ZONE PROHIBITED	2
OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON APPROACH OF AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY POLICE VEHICLES	3
DRIVE ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY - EXCEPTIONS	3
PASSING VEHICLES PROCEEDING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS	2
OVERTAKING A VEHICLE ON LEFT	3
WHEN PASSING ON THE RIGHT IS PERMITTED	2
LIMITATIONS ON OVERTAKING ON THE LEFT	3
FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON DRIVING ON LEFT OF CENTER OF HIGHWAY	3
ONE-WAY HIGHWAYS	1
DRIVING ON HIGHWAYS LANED FOR TRAFFIC	1
FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY	3
VEHICLE APPROACHING OR ENTERING INTERSECTION	3
VEHICLE TURNING LEFT	3
VEHICLE ENTERING HIGHWAY	3
REQUIRED POSITION AND METHOD OF TURNING	3
LIMITATIONS ON TURNING AROUND	3
OBEDIENCE TO SIGNAL INDICATING APPROACH OF TRAIN	4
COMPLIANCE WITH STOPPING REQUIREMENT AT ALL RAILROAD GRADES	4
EMERGING FROM ALLEY, DRIVEWAY OR BUILDING	3
BASIC RULE AND MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS (1-15 mph over speed limit - 3 point; 16 or more = 4 points)	3-4
MINIMUM SPEED REGULATION	3
SPECIAL SPEED LIMITATIONS	3-4
PEDESTRIANS' RIGHT-OF-WAY IN CROSSWALKS	3
OBEDIENCE TO AND REQUIRED TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES	3
TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LEGEND	3
FLASHING SIGNALS	3
STOP SIGNS	3
FAILURE TO YIELD - SIGNED INTERSECTION	3
TURNING MOVEMENTS AND REQUIRED SIGNALS	3
DUTY TO GIVE INFORMATION IN ACCIDENT INVOLVING DAMAGE TO A VEHICLE	4
DUTY UPON STRIKING UNATTENDED VEHICLE	4
DUTY UPON STRIKING FIXTURES UPON OR ADJACENT TO A HIGHWAY	4
INATTENTIVE DRIVING	3
OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC DIRECTION	2
DRIVING ON DIVIDED HIGHWAYS	1
RESTRICTED ACCESS	1
OVERTAKING AND PASSING SCHOOL BUS	4
RACING ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS	4
EXHIBITION OF SPEED	4
EXCESSIVE ACCELERATION	4
CONSTRUCTION DANGER ZONE SPEED LIMIT	3

statute to suspend, disqualify, deny, cancel, refuse, or revoke the license of drivers convicted of breaking certain laws, no matter what the driver's point-system count. Those violations include:

- Driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Using a motor vehicle to commit a felony.
- Leaving the scene of an accident in which you were involved, when the accident caused property damage.
- Making false statements, oral or written, to the Transportation Department while under oath.
- Reckless driving.
- Conviction or action in another state for an offense that, if committed in Idaho, would be grounds for suspension.
- Driving with a suspended license.
- Failing to pay a judgment for damages in an accident.
- Administrative license suspension (automatic license suspension for DUI at the time of the violation).
- Refusing to take an evidentiary test.
- Failing to pay a fine for conviction on an "infraction" charge. (Infractions are a step below misdemeanors and include such minor violations as parking tickets.)
- Illegally passing a school bus.
- Fleeing from or eluding a peace officer.
- Leaving the scene of an accident resulting in injury or death.
- Unlawful use of a driver's license or identification card.
- Failure to carry motor vehicle insurance.
- Alcohol-age violation (possession, use, or procurement).
- Violation of restriction.
- Underage possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia.
- School districts may order the Idaho Transportation Department to suspend the driver's license and privileges of a minor who fails to attend school or does not comply with school requirements.
- Any court or the Department of Health and Welfare may order the Idaho Transportation Department to suspend the driver license and privileges of any person who fails to pay child support, fails to comply with visitation rights, or failure to comply with a subpoena for a paternity suit or child support proceeding.

Restricted Driving Permits

If your Idaho license is suspended by the department, you may qualify for a restricted permit allowing you to drive to and from work, medical treatments, etc. You may apply for a restricted permit at the Transportation Department in Boise. If you are suspended for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, driving without privileges, or any other court

suspensions, you must apply to the court in which you were convicted. Exception: If you are a licensed Idaho driver and are convicted in an out-of-state court, you must apply to the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise.

Requirements:

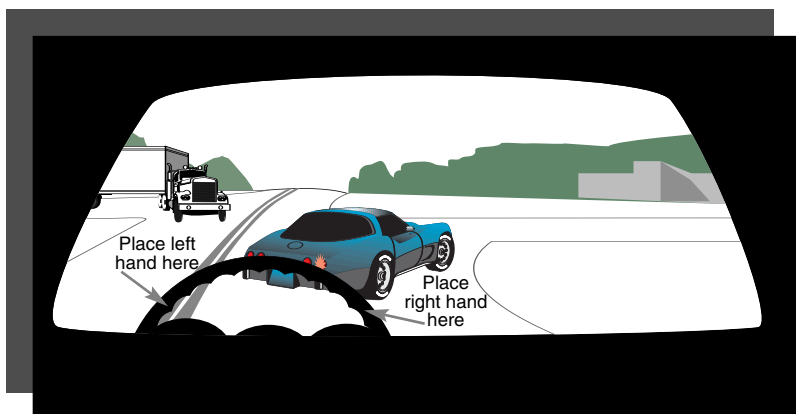
- If you need a restricted permit to drive to work or on the job, you will be required to complete a work verification form that you will be provided with upon determination of your eligibility. This form identifies your occupation; days and hours you must drive; counties and states in which you must drive; reasons you must drive; and availability of public transportation.
- If you need to drive for medical reasons, upon determination of your eligibility you will need to submit a letter from your doctor describing your need for treatment.
- Everyone must provide a valid certificate of liability insurance.
- The fee is \$35.00.

Getting Your License Back

When your suspension or revocation ends, you may get your license back by applying to the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise and paying a reinstatement fee of \$15.00 to \$180.00, depending on the nature of the suspension. If your license was suspended for certain serious offenses, e.g. reckless driving or driving under the influence, you must also provide proof for three years that you are able to meet financial obligations arising from any accident. The usual method of proof is a certified statement of liability insurance coverage from your insurer (an SR-22 certificate). For information on other options, contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise at (208) 334-8736.

CHAPTER 4

THE DRIVING TASK



When you slide in behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, you take responsibility for the lives of people around you. To be a safe driver you must know the rules of the road and respect them. You also must know and follow proper driving procedures.

Just as importantly, you must have a good attitude. Courtesy and consideration are essential to good driving.

Good Habits

Developing good driving habits is as easy as falling into bad ones. Start out by establishing sound habits and you can drive safely all your life. Below are some tips on how to cultivate a safe-driving routine.

Starting Out

Before you get into your car, always glance in front and back to see if there is a child or obstacle you might run over. Once inside, take a moment to get ready for driving. Adjust your seat and mirrors, buckle your safety belt and check to see passengers are properly seated so they won't interfere with your driving.

Develop a routine for starting your car, too. With the hand brake set, shift to park or neutral and start the engine. Holding the foot brake (and clutch if you have one), shift to the proper gear. Then release the parking brake and prepare to pull out.

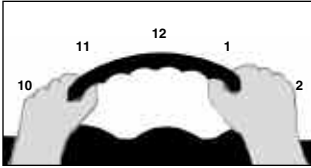
Leaving the Curb From a Parked Position

There is a simple, four-step procedure to follow when you start from the curb, pull into a parking space or change lanes. Always:

- Check mirrors.
- Signal for at least five seconds before pulling out.

- Glance over your shoulder in the direction you're going to move.
- When it is safe to do so, make your move gradually so you don't surprise other drivers.
- Cancel the turn signal.

Defensive Driving



Most accidents are caused by driver error. Be prepared to react promptly to emergencies by driving with both hands placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel the steering wheel in the 10:00 o'clock and 2:00 o'clock positions. You can reduce your chances of an accident by knowing and using the standard accident-prevention formula:

- **Identify:** Scan the road ahead for any person, vehicle, animal or situation that could force you to slow down, speed up or turn.
- **Predict:** After spotting a potential hazard, predict what will happen. Generally, it's safest to predict the worst. For example, if you see children playing on a street corner, prepare for one of them to run in front of you.
- **Decide What To Do:** The key to defensive driving is making a sound decision ahead of time rather than reacting to danger at the last second.
- **Execute:** The final step is to execute your decision in a smooth, predictable manner - in time to avoid an accident.

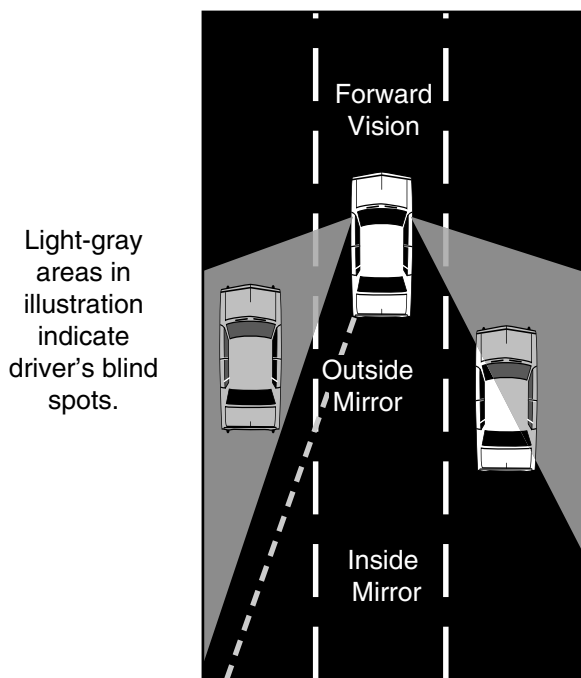
Scanning

To be a defensive driver, you have to see what's going on. The best way to spot potential trouble is by scanning. Avoid a fixed, straight-ahead stare that may let you drift off in daydreams. Keep your eyes moving and learn to "read" the road in the following ways:

- **Look Ahead:** Good drivers keep an eye on what's happening about 10-15 seconds ahead. That's about a block in city driving. By doing this, you'll avoid the kind of last-minute lane changes, turns and stops that often cause accidents.
- **Look To The Sides:** As you approach any place where other cars, people or animals may cross your path, look to both sides. Don't rely on traffic lights or stop signs. Always watch out for other drivers - they may run the light.
- **Look Behind:** Check the traffic behind you frequently - several times a minute - so you'll know if somebody is tailgating, coming up too fast or trying to pass. Most rear-end collisions are caused by vehicles following too closely.

- **Blind Spots:** These are areas near the left and right rear corners of your vehicle that are not visible in your mirrors. If your vehicle does not have a right side view mirror, the right blind spot will be larger than the one on the left.

Never rely on your mirrors alone. Before you make any move to the side, quickly turn your head to see if your blind spot is clear. Also avoid driving in someone else's blind spot. It's as important for other drivers to see you as for you to see them.



Make Things Easy for Other Drivers

"Talk" to other drivers with all the signals you can. Be in the lane that shows where you intend to turn. Use turn signals to tell the other driver what you're going to do. Pump your brakes so your break lights show you're slowing down or stopping.

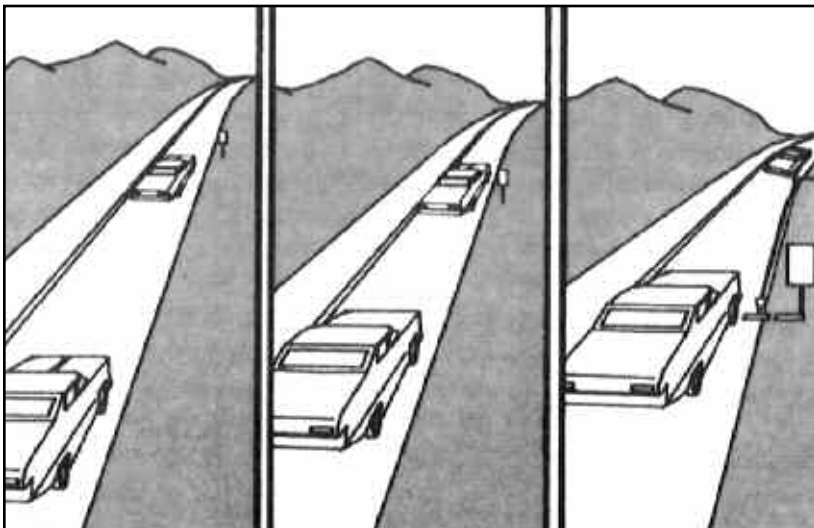
Also get in the habit of catching the other driver's eye. Some times, you must use your horn to warn them of your location. At night, a quick flick of your lights, from low to high beam and back again, can be helpful.

Most important, be patient. Try not to let heavy traffic get on your nerves. Never change your mind at the last minute or act too quickly. Don't rely on warnings or signals from other drivers. Depend on your own alertness, not theirs.

Keep a Space Cushion

To avoid a collision you need time to react to danger. Try to keep plenty of space between your car and others on all sides. Stay in the middle of your lane and always make sure there is enough room ahead to stop or pass safely. If a car follows too closely, slow down and let it pass.

Two-Second Following Distance Rule



Left: The car ahead is approaching a check point (the sign).

Center: Begin counting seconds as the rear of the car ahead passes the check point.

Right: If it takes a least two seconds for the front of your car to reach the check point, your following distance is adequate.

Following Distances

"Tailgating" (driving too close to the car ahead) is a common cause of accidents. When following another car, you must leave yourself enough space to stop in any situation. You must also be sure your brakes are in good shape. Know how quickly they will stop you under any conditions. Test them often, particularly when the road is wet, icy or snowy.

There's no perfect formula for following distance, but the rule of thumb is to keep one car length back for each 10 miles per hour of speed. At high speeds or while driving heavy trucks or in bad weather, increase your following distance.

The "two-second rule" is the safest procedure to use.
This procedure is taught during driver's training.

If you have trouble judging car lengths, try the "two-second rule" explained in the illustration above. It works like this:

- Choose some fixed object such as a sign or tree ahead of the car in front of you.
- As the car ahead passes the object, count off two seconds (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two).
- If it takes at least two seconds before you pass the object, you have enough distance for a sudden stop.
- In bad weather, the two seconds should be increased several times to give an extra margin of safety.

Safe Stopping Distance

When stopping behind another vehicle, a safe driving habit is to leave enough distance between the vehicles to see the rear tires (where they touch the ground) of the vehicle in front of you. This may keep you from hitting the vehicle in front of you if someone crashes into the rear of your vehicle.

Signal When You Slow Down

If you're going to slow down or stop when other drivers don't expect it, warn them. Tap your brake pedal three or four times to flash your brake lights. Or give the arm signal for stopping, i.e. your arm and hand extended downward out the window.

Give an extra warning whenever you slow down:

- To turn off a highway that has no slowdown lane.
- To park or turn into a driveway.
- To avoid an obstacle the driver behind you might not see.

Signal When You Change Direction

Always give a turn signal when you:

- Change lanes or pass another vehicle.
- Turn at an intersection or into a driveway.
- Enter or leave a freeway or interstate highway.
- Pull away from a parked position along a road or street to enter the traffic lane.
- Pull over to the side of the road.

Proper signalling may prevent a rear-end collision. Signals must start at least 100 feet (in business or residential areas) or five seconds (on freeways or highways) before you turn or change lanes. If you plan to turn just beyond an intersection, signal just after you pass through the intersection so you won't confuse other drivers. You may use either electric turn signals or arm signals. The correct arm signals are:

- **Right:** Your arm and hand extended upward out the window.
- **Left:** Your arm and hand extended straight out the window.

- **Stop:** Your arm and hand extended downward out the window (see illustration on page 7-10).

If You Have Car Trouble

When your car breaks down on the highway, make sure other drivers can see it. Many accidents occur because a driver didn't see a stalled vehicle.

When your car stalls, follow these rules:

- If possible, pull all the way off the road.
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Lift the hood to let others know you have a problem.
- If you can't get off the road, stop where people have a clear view of you and your car from behind. Don't stop just over a hill or around a curve.
- If you have emergency flares, place them 200 to 300 feet behind your car to give others lots of warning.
- If you don't have flares, stand by the side of the road and wave traffic around. Use a white cloth or flag if you have it. Stay off the roadway.

Unattended Vehicles

Unattended vehicles on the traveled portion of a highway at any time create a potential danger to public safety and are subject to immediate removal (towing).

Unattended vehicles that are off the traveled portion but are on the paved portion of a highway create a potential danger to public safety during darkness (unless the vehicle has lights or lit warning devices nearby). These vehicles, if left unattended, must be removed prior to darkness or be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

Backing

Backing requires extra caution because it is difficult for drivers to see behind their vehicles. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back up:

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
- Put your right arm on the back of the seat and look over your shoulder directly through the rear window. Don't rely on your mirrors.
- Back slowly. Your vehicle is more difficult to control while backing. Continue looking back until you come to a complete stop.

Whenever possible, avoid backing in traffic. If you have passed your exit on an interstate, never back or try to turn around. Go on to the next exit.

Other Driving Maneuvers

Other driving maneuvers such as passing, turning, parking, and stopping are discussed in Chapter 7 on traffic laws.

Watch for Problem Drivers

Give a lot of room to drivers who may not see you. These include:

- Drivers entering from intersections or driveways where the view is blocked by buildings, a fence, trees or another car.
- Drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces.
- Drivers whose windows are covered with ice or snow.

You should also allow extra room for people who may be distracted by something they're doing. For example:

- Delivery men.
- Construction workers.
- Children playing.
- Drivers who are talking, tending children or looking at maps.
- Tourists trying to figure out a complicated intersection.
- Drivers looking for a house number.

Sometimes you also must give extra room to a driver who gets in trouble. If other drivers make mistakes, help them out. Watch out for:

- Drivers who pass as you approach a curve, hill or an oncoming car. Slow down and let them back into your lane quickly. Make room for any driver who is about to be forced into your lane by a car, pedestrian, bicyclist, obstacle, or a reduction in the number of lanes.

Handling Emergencies

Emergencies appear suddenly, and you may have only a fraction of a second to make the right move. Lives may depend on your ability to react quickly. Be prepared for hazards and know what to do when they show up. One basic rule applies in all driving situations, and particularly during emergencies: Think before you act. Often, an instinctive reaction, such as slamming on your brakes while skidding, may be the wrong thing to do.

Below are some tips on common driving emergencies.

Stopping Quickly

Many newer vehicles have an anti-braking system (ABS). Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS will allow

you to stop without skidding. In general, observe the following if you need to stop quickly:

Stopping Quickly With an ABS:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep pressing on it.
- You might feel the brake pedal pushing back when the ABS is working. Do not let-up on the brake pedal, the ABS will only work with the brake pedal pushed down.

Stopping Quickly Without an ABS:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can without locking the brakes and bring the vehicle to a quick, safe stop. (You can cause the vehicle to skid if you brake too hard.)
- If the brakes lock, you will feel the vehicle begin to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, press down on the brake pedal again until the vehicle has stopped.

Skidding

In most skids, the rear wheels lose their grip on the pavement and slide left or right. Skidding occurs most often on ice or packed snow. It can also happen on wet pavement or even on dry pavement when traveling at high speeds or stopping quickly.

Prevention: Be alert to slick road conditions that may cause skidding, especially during the winter. When you must stop, slow down in advance. Never hit the brakes so hard you lock the wheels and lose control of your car.

Recovery: When a skid starts, don't panic and don't hit the brake. Immediately take your foot off the gas pedal, then steer in the direction of the skid. For example, if your rear wheels slide to the right, turn your front wheels toward the right.

Before traveling on ice or snow, prepare for trouble by practicing stops and skid recovery in a safe place, preferably on private property.

Tire Blowouts

Blowouts are usually unexpected and the driver's natural response is to slam on the brakes. That's the worst possible reaction because it may throw you into a dangerous skid. Instead:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the car headed straight down the road.
- Ease your foot off the gas pedal, but do not apply the brakes until you have complete control.
- When the car is under control, brake gently and pull off the road at the nearest spot where it's safe.

Gas Pedal Sticks

When your gas pedal sticks causing your engine to run too fast:

- Keep your eyes on the road.
- If you have time, lightly tap the accelerator pedal a few times to see if your engine speed returns to normal.
- If tapping fails, try prying it up with your toe. If you don't have time, push the clutch in on a manual transmission or push the gear shift lever of an automatic transmission into neutral and brake to a safe stop. Then turn the ignition off. If you must turn the ignition off before you can stop, DO NOT turn the key to lock, because the steering will lock and you will not be able to steer the vehicle. Also remember that power steering assist and power brake assist do not work when the engine dies - so get a firm grip on the wheel because steering will be harder and it will take more pressure on the brake pedal to stop.

Running off the road

Running off the road is one of the main causes of accidents. Know what to do if two wheels drop off the pavement.

- Grip the wheel tightly and steer straight ahead. Stay on the shoulder if there are no immediate obstacles.
- Take your foot off the accelerator and apply the brakes gently.
- Once you've slowed down, you can consider steering back onto the road. Check traffic for an opening, then steer onto the pavement at a sharp angle, being careful not to shoot out across the center line.

Brake Failure

If your brakes fail:

- Pump the brake pedal hard and fast. This may activate the brakes enough to slow you down or stop you.
- Shift to a lower gear.

- Apply the hand brake gradually, but be ready to release it if you go into a skid.
- If none of the above work, look for something such as an embankment or ditch against which you can slow down. Also look for an escape route across open ground.
- Once you stop, walk for help. Don't drive your vehicle again until the brakes are fixed.

Oncoming Car in Your Lane

If you're threatened with a head-on collision and have some time:

- Slow down and try to warn the other driver by flashing your lights and honking your horn.
- Pull to the right as far as possible. Don't go left. The other driver may recover and hit you broadside.

If you can't avoid a collision, steer so the cars will hit at an angle and avoid a head-on crash.

Avoiding Collisions

To avoid a collision, you have two choices: change direction by steering or change speed by braking or accelerating.

Steering: If you don't think you can stop in time, try to turn out of the way. If possible, stay off the brakes while you turn - you'll have more control.

Braking: Many drivers slam on the brakes to avoid a collision. Don't, unless you have anti-lock brakes. Locking your brakes may throw you into a skid and make things worse. You should pump your brakes hard and fast. You'll have more control and stop faster.

Acceleration: When another car is about to hit you from the side or rear, accelerating may soften the impact or prevent the collision.

Protecting Yourself in a Collision

If you can't avoid a collision, try to protect yourself in the following ways:

- The best protection is to buckle your seat belt or shoulder harness **BEFORE** you start your trip.
- If you're about to be hit from the rear and have a headrest, press the back of your head against it. Be ready to brake to avoid hitting cars ahead of you.
- If you're about to be hit from the side, be prepared to steer to recover from the impact.
- If you're about to be hit from the front and you're wearing a seat belt and shoulder harness, use your arms and hands to protect your face. If you're not wearing a seat belt or harness, throw yourself across the seat to avoid hitting the steering wheel or windshield.

Accidents and the Law

No matter how safely you drive, chances are someday you'll be in an accident. Even if you're not at fault, you must know what to do.

If you're involved in an accident, you are required to:

- Stop as near to the scene as possible without blocking traffic. You may move vehicles that pose a traffic hazard before the police arrive.
- Give any help you can if someone is injured. Idaho's Good Samaritan Law protects you from civil liability if you act in good faith. However don't try to move an injured person from a wrecked vehicle unless you have the necessary medical training or there is an immediate danger, such as fire.
- Call for police and medical help as soon as possible. You must report to police any motor vehicle accident in which someone is injured or property damage is more than \$750. Exchange information with other people involved in the accident, including names, addresses and driver's license numbers of other drivers; names and addresses of any people injured; names and addresses of any witnesses; and names, addresses and insurance policy numbers of the other vehicle owners.



At the Scene of the Accident

Someday you may come upon a traffic accident where there are serious injuries and people need help. If police or medical help is already there, don't stop. Move on as officers direct.

If you're the first one to arrive, you should stop and try to do everything you can to help the victims. Even if you know nothing of first aid, you can still be of assistance by warning other traffic and sending for medical help. Do what you can, then wait for qualified help to arrive.

Accident With an Uninsured Driver

If you have recently been in an accident with an uninsured driver and have been unsuccessful in collecting damages, the Idaho Transportation Department may be able to help you. After a court judgment has been entered, the Department will suspend the driving privileges of the uninsured driver until you have been paid, or up to six years. For more information, contact any city, county or state law enforcement agency, or the Idaho Transportation Department.

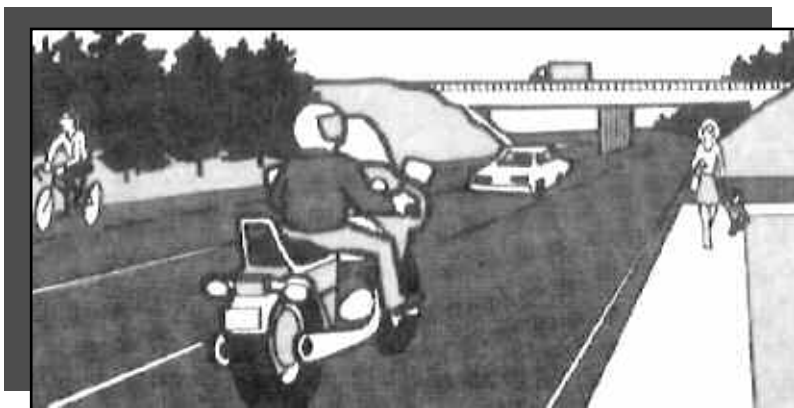
If You Hit an Unattended Vehicle

You must make a reasonable effort to find the owner of an unattended vehicle or other property damaged in an accident in which you are involved. If the owner cannot be located, leave a note telling about the accident, your name, address, and license plate number. You must also notify police if the damage was more than \$750 or someone was injured.

Study Questions

1. There are two rules of thumb for determining a safe distance between your car and the car in front of you. What are they?
2. What motor vehicle accidents must be reported to police?
3. What is the correct procedure for maneuvering your car out of a skid?
4. What is the correct arm signal for a left turn? A right turn? A stop?
5. What should you do before changing lanes or turning?
6. Is keeping your eyes straight ahead one of the rules of defensive driving?
7. What should you do if one of your tires blows out while you're driving?
8. What are the proper actions to take if your wheels drift off of the pavement onto a soft shoulder?

CHAPTER 5



SHARING THE ROAD

At times, the variety of vehicles and pedestrians on the road complicates driving and increases hazards for everyone. The keys to minimizing those hazards are courtesy, respect for the rights of others and an understanding of their special problems. Learn to put yourself in the motorcyclist's or the bicyclist's place. Try to see the situation from their point of view - and give them plenty of room. A little caution and special attention on your part can save them from serious injury or even death.

Motorcycles

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other highway users. They must obey the same traffic laws, but you must take special care when they're around.

Motorcycles are smaller and harder to see than cars. They're easily hidden in a car's blind spot. It's also hard for some drivers to judge the distance to a motorcycle. Others can't tell how fast a motorcycle is moving.

Below are situations that call for special attention.

- **Left turns:** Cars turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle cause many serious car-cycle accidents. The problem is two-fold. A car driver may fail to notice the cyclist in the traffic scene. Or the driver may fail to judge the speed of the oncoming cycle. The correct precaution is for the driver to look and then look again. Make sure you see the motorcycle and know its speed before you make a left turn.
- **Turn signals** on most motorcycles do not turn off automatically. At times, the rider may forget to switch the signal off. Before you make a turn in front of a motorcycle with a signal flashing, be sure the motorcycle is turning and not continuing straight into your

path.

- **Lanes:** Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as all other vehicles. Good motorcycle drivers are constantly changing positions within the lane so they can see and be seen, and avoid objects in the road. Never move into the same lane alongside a motorcycle, even if the lane is wide and the cyclist is riding far to one side.
- **Bad weather** and slippery surfaces can be serious problems for motorcycles. Allow even more following room when it's raining or the road surface is slick.
- **Unusual road surfaces** and irregularities in the road that don't bother other vehicles can create problems for a cyclist. Gravel, debris, pavement seams, small animals, and even manhole covers may force the motorcyclist to change speed or direction.

Large Vehicles

Safely sharing the road with large trucks and buses requires knowledge of their special limitations.

Blind spots - Stay out of blind spots. If you are following a large vehicle and you cannot see the driver's mirrors, then the driver cannot see you either. There are other blind spots on each side of large vehicles. Avoid driving alongside large vehicles for prolonged periods.

Visibility - Large vehicles can block your vision of the road ahead. When following large vehicles, adjust your following distance so you can see most of the roadway ahead.

Speeding up and stopping - Large vehicles cannot gain speed or stop as quickly as smaller vehicles can. For example, it takes a loaded truck with properly adjusted brakes 290 feet to come to a complete stop when traveling 55 mph on a dry road. Allow extra space for large vehicles to speed up or stop. The operators of these vehicles adjust the space between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead to allow for a safe following distance. When passing them, be sure to allow for this increased safety zone when returning to your lane of travel.

Turning space - When making sharp turns, large vehicles sometimes require more than one lane to complete the turn. Be sure to allow enough room for these vehicles to safely complete their turns. When turning right, these drivers may angle into the left lane so they can make the right turn without running over the curb or hitting something. Do not try to squeeze by on the right side when a large vehicle is making a turn like this. It is a frequent cause of accidents involving large vehicles.

Hazardous Materials - Avoid driving near vehicles carrying hazardous materials. These vehicles will be placarded to identify what they are carrying. All vehicles carrying hazardous materials must stop at all railroad crossings, so be prepared to stop if you are following one.

Long, Steep Grades - When traveling up or down steep grades, large vehicles travel slowly. On 4-lane roads, they will use the right lane. Be prepared to encounter slow vehicles in the right lane, and do not park in or near “escape” or “runaway” ramps. These ramps should only be used to stop large vehicles whose brakes have failed.

Bicycles

Every year, bicycles multiply on Idaho roadways as more people grow health and energy conscious. Cycling has become an important means of transportation as well as recreation. Unfortunately, the attitude of many drivers toward bicyclists has not evolved as quickly.

As a motorist, you should recognize the rights, needs, and vulnerability of cyclists. Above all, drivers need to treat cyclists as people, not annoyances. Bicycle riders have the same rights as motorists, but drivers don't always give cyclists the full lane needed to guarantee them their rights - and safety.

To assure a safe margin when passing cyclists, change lanes if possible. Slow down and make sure they are aware of you. Allow at least four feet of clearance. On narrow roads, wait for a break in traffic so you can move into the other lane to go around a cyclist.

Bicycles often travel near the right edge of a traffic lane, but sometimes need more room. Allow them the space to move out into the roadway to avoid curbside trash, sewer grates, or sand or gravel.

When meeting an oncoming bicyclist at night, always dim your lights as you would for another car. Bicyclists are expected to obey all traffic laws, but, if bicyclists break the law, give them the benefit of the doubt. Bicycles are small and lightweight, and almost any collision can result in injury or death for the rider.

Pedestrians

Vehicle-pedestrian collisions account for approximately 12 percent of all traffic deaths. Drivers must use extreme care to avoid pedestrians,

particularly near schools, bus stops, playgrounds and parks.

Remember, pedestrians have the right of way when:

- They're in a crosswalk.
- They're on a sidewalk that crosses the entrances to an alley or driveway.
- They're blind and are walking with a white, orange or metal cane or are led by a guide dog.

Pedestrians must:

- Use crosswalks at intersections.
- Look in both directions before crossing any street.
- Walk on the left side facing traffic when there is no sidewalk. Walk on the shoulder, if possible.
- Observe and obey "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signals; never walk on a limited-access highway.

Joggers

Jogging usually is good for the jogger's health, but many runners are killed or injured each year because of carelessness on public streets. If you jog, use running paths when possible. If you can't do that, remember joggers must follow the same rules as other pedestrians.

If you must jog on public roads, choose roads with spacious shoulders. Jog on the left facing traffic. Always watch and listen for cars ahead and behind. Never jog after dark or in bad weather unless the area is well-lit or you wear reflective clothing.

Children at Play

Drivers must take extra care in residential areas and school zones and at times and places where children are likely to be found. Before getting into your vehicle, walk around your vehicle to be sure no children are playing near it that you may not be able to see from the driver's seat. When backing out of a driveway, watch for children who may have run behind your vehicle. Also be careful when passing parked cars. Walking into traffic from between parked cars is a common cause of fatal accidents.

If you have children, keep an eye on them. Don't let them play or use roller skates or skateboards in the street. Teach them safety rules and the rights and duties of pedestrians.

Horseback Riders

People riding horses may use most public roads. Riders have the same rights as motor vehicle operators and must obey the same rules.

Drivers approaching someone riding a horse must take care to avoid frightening the animal; slow down and pass wide around it. Never sound your horn because you may frighten the horse and cause an accident.

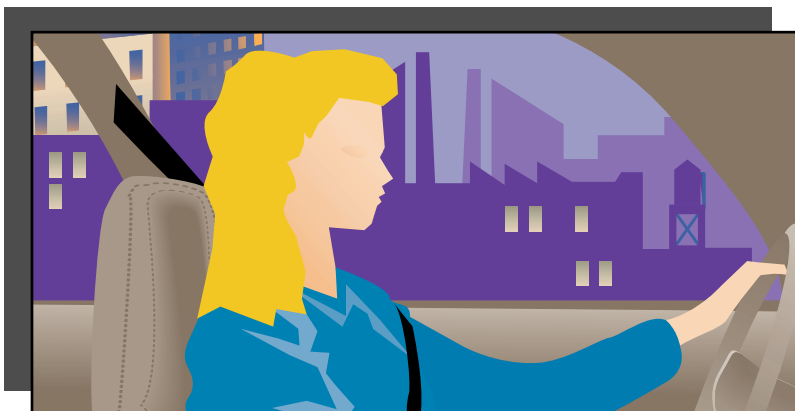
Funeral Processions

If you see a funeral procession on the road, do not (1) drive between or join vehicles in the formation unless authorized to do so by a police officer, (2) pass the procession in the right lane on a multi-lane highway unless the procession is in the farthest left lane, or (3) enter an intersection when the procession is proceeding through (regardless of the color of the traffic light) unless you can do so without crossing the path of the procession. Always give funeral processions the right of way.

All vehicles in a funeral procession must have their headlights and tail lights turned on. The first and last vehicles in the procession must also have their warning lights flashing to indicate the beginning and ending

CHAPTER 6

THE DRIVER



Professional drivers will tell you it takes more than basic skills to make a good driver. After mastering those skills, a driver still must learn the fine points of good driving - including the mental and physical conditions that affect performance on the road.

Driver error causes more than 90% of highway crashes. Your ability to drive safely depends not only on what you know, but how you feel and what you were doing before you climbed behind the wheel.

Your Mood Affects Your Driving

If you're worried or distracted, you can't count on being alert enough to drive safely. Quarrels, misunderstandings, financial problems, illness in the family, personal fears or over-confidence make you far more likely to have an accident.

If you're upset, let someone else drive.

You should also be aware of how getting behind the wheel can affect your behavior. Taking control of the power and speed of a car often reveals a person's character. You soon see whether you're inclined to be a bully, a thoughtless lawbreaker, or a reliable and courteous driver. To drive safely, you must find the maturity to share the road and help your fellow travelers.

Concentration

Concentration is vital to safe driving. The driver's seat is no place for daydreaming, window shopping, intense conversation, or looking at scenery. There have been too many crashes after which the surviving driver said "I don't know what happened."

Fatigue and Highway Hypnosis

Stop driving when you feel drowsy. Pull off the highway at the first rest stop or service area. A cup of coffee and a bit of stretching may be enough to wake you. If you're really sleepy, get off the road and take a nap. Drowsiness is one of the greatest killers in interstate highway driving. Don't rely on "stay awake" drugs. They can make your driving even more dangerous.

On long trips, exercise your eyes as you drive. Freeway drivers often suffer "highway hypnosis" - drowsiness brought on by monotony and the drone of wind and tires. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus them on various objects - near and far, left and right. Even reading road signs can help you stay awake.

Drinking and Driving

Many adults drink and most adults drive. Unfortunately, they often combine the two. About half of all fatal accidents involve drinking drivers. Alcohol kills some 25,000 people a year on our highways.

In recent years, the public has demanded that this carnage be reduced. Lawmakers, including those in Idaho, have responded by passing tougher laws on driving under the influence of alcohol. You can avoid accidents and serious legal problems by not driving when you have been drinking.

How Drinking Affects You

Alcohol passes directly through your stomach and small intestine into the bloodstream, where it flows to all parts of your body. On an empty stomach this process takes place almost immediately. On a full stomach, it takes somewhat longer. In either case, when the alcohol reaches your brain, it promotes relaxation. In large amounts, it dulls the parts of your brain that control inhibition, judgment and self-control. As a result, you may feel stimulated, lively, a bit giddy or foolish.

After two to four drinks, alcohol begins to impair your reaction time, coordination and balance. Your vision and ability to judge distance suffers, too, making it harder to react to dangers ahead.

In heavy doses, alcohol can be a mood changer producing sudden shifts in mood all the way from elation to anger. Studies show a combination of alcohol and anger is responsible for much of the reckless, aggressive driving that often causes fatal highway crashes.

Food can slow down the absorption of alcohol. This delaying action prevents large amounts of alcohol from going to your head immediately. But, if you drink a lot, eating won't prevent a high blood alcohol concentration.

If alcohol is already in your bloodstream, neither aspirin, black coffee, deep breathing, a slap in the face, exercise, nor eating will sober you up. Only time will return you to normal.




How Much is Too Much?

You can't trust yourself or your friends to judge the quality of your driving after you've had a few drinks. Your ability to drive may be impaired long before you or anyone else notices outward signs.

The only scientific way to check how your drinking affects you is by testing for alcohol concentration, which can be done by testing your breath or blood.

Alcohol concentration is determined by three factors: how much you've drunk, how much you weigh, and the passage of time.

If you drink enough to increase your alcohol concentration past .05, be careful. At slightly above .05, the risk of causing an accident doubles. At .10, the risk is six times as great. At .15, the risk is 25 times as great.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU DRINK AND STILL DRIVE SAFELY?												
 Caution BAC to .05			 Driving Impaired BAC to .05 - .09				 Extremely Impaired BAC to .10 and Up					
WEIGHT	DRINKS (Two-Hour Period) 1-1/2 ozs. 80 Proof Liquor or 12 ozs. Beer											
100 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
120 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
140 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
160 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
180 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
200 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
220 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
240 lbs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Idaho Law and Drunken Driving

Under Idaho law you are considered to be driving under the influence if your blood-alcohol concentration is .02 or more if you are under 21 years of age, .04 or more if you are operating a commercial vehicle, and .08 or more if you are 21 or older. Even if it's less than .08, you may be convicted of drunken driving on other evidence. An alcohol concentration of .20 or more carries even stiffer penalties.

If you're convicted, the penalties are:

- **For a first conviction:** Up to six months in jail; up to a \$1,000 fine; and mandatory driver's license suspension of at least 90 days and up to 180 days (one year if you are under 21), with absolutely no driving privileges for the first 30 days.
- **For a second conviction within five years:** Mandatory jail sentence from 10 days to one year; up to a \$2,000 fine; and a mandatory driver's license suspension of one year (two years if you are under 21).
- **For a third or more conviction within five years:** Mandatory jail sentence of from 30 days to five years; up to a \$5,000 fine; and mandatory driver's license suspension from one to five years. The conviction is considered a felony.

Alcohol Tests and the Law

When you accept an Idaho driver's license, you give your implied consent to take an alcohol concentration test if arrested for driving under the influence. When arrested, you may refuse to take the test, but if you do, your license will be seized by the arresting officer. The officer may issue you a temporary driving permit good for 30 days or until a hearing is held on the seizure of your license. If the court upholds the officer's findings, your license will be suspended for 180 days for refusing to take the alcohol concentration test if it is your first offense. This penalty is in addition to any penalty you receive in court for an alcohol or drug-related conviction. A second refusal within five years will result in a one-year suspension.

Mandatory DUI License Suspensions

If you are arrested for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances and fail an evidentiary test, a peace officer will serve you with a Notice of Suspension. This notice is a department imposed administrative driver's license suspension issued in accordance with Section 18-8002A, Idaho Code.

The Administrative License Suspension penalty is civil in nature and is separate and apart from any criminal penalties imposed by the court system. If you receive an Administrative License Suspension, you must (1)

comply with the ALS requirements, and (2) also appear in court on your appointed date regarding the criminal DUI charges brought against you.

Your notice of suspension becomes effective no later than thirty (30) days after the date of service (the date you received the notice). For a first offense, and upon failure of evidentiary testing, your driving privileges shall be suspended for a period of ninety (90) days, with absolutely no driving privileges during the first thirty (30) days of the suspension. Your driving privileges shall be suspended for a period of 1 year for a second failure of the test within five (5) years, with absolutely no driving privileges of any kind.

You have the right to request an administrative hearing on the suspension before a hearing officer designated by the Idaho Transportation Department. You must make your request in writing, and it must be received by the department no later than seven (7) calendar days after you receive the notice of suspension. You may mail this request to the Idaho Transportation Department, Driver Services, PO Box 7129, Boise, ID, 83707-1129, or fax it to (208) 334-8739.

An administrative hearing is a review before a hearing officer to examine the evidence against you, and review Idaho laws, rules, and regulations regarding the action(s) taken against your driving privileges. The hearing is your opportunity to present evidence in your favor and to show why your driving privileges should not be suspended for failing an evidentiary test. You may, at your expense, have an attorney of your choice represent you at the hearing. If you do not prevail at the hearing, you have the right to a judicial review through the district court.

You may apply for restricted driving privileges any time after you receive your Notice of Suspension as long as you have at least 21 days remaining on your suspension. You must comply with certain requirements and pay reinstatement fees before being issued a permit. Restricted driving privileges can only be issued for the last sixty (60) days of your license suspension. To apply for a restricted driving permit during your suspension, you may contact Driver Services at the address or fax number listed above, or by calling (208) 334-8735. Driver Services can mail you the appropriate forms, or you can pick them up in person at the Idaho Transportation Department.

An Administrative License Suspension will show on your driving record as an administrative action and will be released for public dissemination. If you are convicted and additionally suspended by the court, these actions will also be added to and reflected on your record.

To get reinstated after the suspension is over, you must pay a \$130.00 reinstatement fee (which may be paid at any time during your suspension).

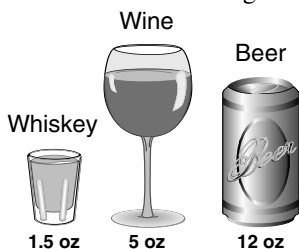
We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that driving without privileges is a misdemeanor. If you are convicted of driving without privileges, you may be subject to the following penalties:

- Mandatory minimum jail sentence for a period of not less than two (2) days and not more than six (6) months.
- Fine not to exceed \$500.00.
- Six (6) month court-ordered driving privilege suspension (following the end of any current suspension).

Is Beer Safer Than Whiskey?

There is just as much alcohol in the average can of beer as in the average glass of wine or cocktail. A jigger (1.5 ounces) of 80-proof whiskey, five ounces of table wine and 12 ounces of beer all contain the same amount of alcohol - about an ounce each.

Studies have found the greatest percentage of people arrested for drunken driving drink beer.



You Can't Hide Drunken Driving

Heavy drinking affects your thinking. It also slows your reaction time. By making you feel good, alcohol may also give you false confidence. Such factors affect your driving in ways that a trained law officer can detect. Some signs of drunken driving are:

- **Speeding:** Drinking drivers often think they can drive safely at high speeds.
- **Weaving:** Even though drivers may stay in their lane, they may have trouble steering straight.
- **Slow driving:** Drinking drivers may be overly cautious and drive slower than normal traffic.
- **Jerking motion:** Drinking drivers often have short mental lapses revealed by jerky steering or acceleration.

- **Quick stops:** Drinking drivers may make sudden stops at traffic signs or lights, rather than easing up to them.

Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

When you're out with friends or giving a party, be a good friend. If they drink too much, don't let them drive. Drive them yourself or call a taxi. You also have legal responsibilities. If a person gets drunk at your house and has an accident, you may be held liable in a lawsuit.

Drugs and Driving

Most Americans are multiple drug users. Some of the drugs they use are legal. Others are not. If you have to drive, you should avoid taking any drug that might hamper your ability to operate your vehicle.

- **Prescription drugs:** When your doctor writes out a prescription, ask the doctor if it will make you drowsy or otherwise affect your driving. If so, let someone else drive while you are taking the drug.
- **Over-the-counter drugs:** Over-the-counter drugs include such things as pain relievers, lozenges, and cough and cold remedies. By law, these drugs must provide directions for use. Read the label. If driving is discouraged, don't get behind the wheel.

Illegal Drugs

In general, illegal drugs come in three varieties: stimulants that speed you up, depressants that slow you down, and hallucinogens that affect the way you see things. All three can be dangerous when mixed with driving. Here's a brief look at some common drugs and their effects:

- **Amphetamines** are stimulants. Fatigued people, including drivers, sometimes use them to stay awake. The danger is that amphetamines often give a false sense of alertness and increased self-confidence, which may increase a person's willingness to take risks.
- **Cocaine** is another stimulant that has become widespread. In moderate doses it may result in extreme stimulation and hallucination.
- **Tranquilizers** are depressants. They slow down the nervous system and cause drowsiness. Besides decreasing alertness, they can affect sight, coordination, and driver reaction.
- **Barbiturates** slow down the nervous system and are used by some people to calm nervousness. They can make thinking difficult, affect emotions, and cause drowsiness. Alertness,

attention, judgment, and reaction time may be affected for several hours after taking barbiturates.

- **Marijuana** is a mild hallucinogen that delays a driver's response to sights and sounds so it takes longer to react to a dangerous situation. Marijuana causes a severe loss of night vision that is compounded by vehicles with tinted windshields. Together, the two can cause a combined loss of up to 70% of night vision.

The ability to perform a series of tasks can also be affected by smoking marijuana. As a result, a marijuana smoker's biggest driving problems occur when faced with unexpected events, such as a car approaching from a side street or a child running out from between parked cars. The greater the demands of a driving situation, the less able the marijuana smoker will be able to cope.

Accident data on driving and marijuana are inconclusive, but marijuana and alcohol are often found together in the blood of drivers killed in traffic accidents.

Driver Age and Accidents

Statistics on accidents make it clear that driver age is directly related to the chance of being in an accident. Drivers under age 20 have, by far, the greatest number of accidents. As driver age increases, the number of accidents declines until about 50 to 54 years of age. Starting at 55, accidents occur more frequently again.

The Young Driver

A lot of teen-age drivers feel the need to prove themselves behind the wheel of a car. They think they can impress their friends by demonstrating their "skill" and "courage" on the highway. All too often they prove instead how such immature behavior can lead to disaster. As a young driver, you can avoid being trapped into dangerous situations if you:

- Resist the temptation to compete and show off.
- Turn down all dares to prove yourself or your vehicle's abilities, such as in exhibition acceleration, drag racing, or racing on public roads.

Tips for Senior Citizens

Most older drivers enjoy the use of their cars and handle them with skill. There is no reason for them not to drive as long as they remain in good health. They should, however, heed the warning of auto accident statistics. The accident rate for drivers over 65 is second only to the rate for drivers under 25 years of age. The older driver must constantly question driving skills. If you are a senior citizen, check the following points to test your driving ability:

- Do you need two to three tries when parallel parking?
- Do you have trouble seeing at night?
- Do you have trouble keeping up with the pace of the other cars? Do they seem to be passing you all the time?
- Does it take you a long time to get going again after a light has turned green?
- Are you getting more minor scrapes and dents (such as from your garage door) on your car?
- Are you missing important stop signs, highway signs and other traffic signals?
- Do you become confused when unexpected things happen while driving?
- When a car is coming toward you, do you have trouble judging how far away it is?
- When you're looking straight ahead while driving, do you have trouble seeing the sides of the road?

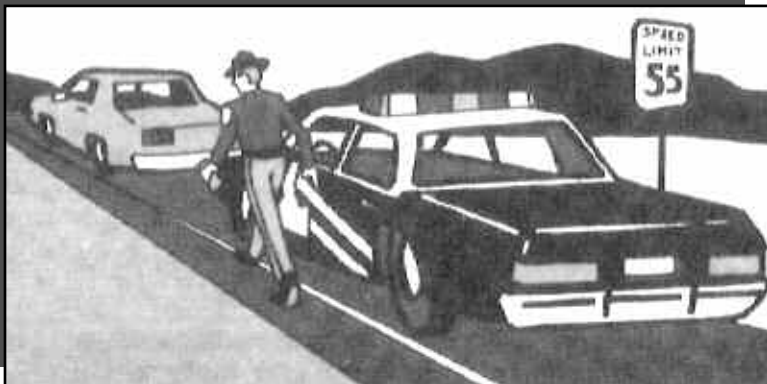
If you answered "yes" or "sometimes" to any of these questions, try to get help in driving. For your own safety, let someone else drive.

Study Questions

1. What should you do if you must travel somewhere by automobile and are upset about personal problems?
2. What does alcohol do to your driving skills and judgment?
3. What three factors does alcohol concentration depend upon?
4. How do the following compare in the amount of alcohol they contain: 12 ounces of beer, a jigger (1.5 ounces) of 80-proof whiskey, and five ounces of table wine?
5. What happens to your driver's license if you refuse to take an alcohol concentration test when arrested for driving under the influence?
6. What is the only effective way to reduce your alcohol concentration?
7. What are the consequences that can result from driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs?

CHAPTER 7

TRAFFIC LAWS



Traffic laws prevent accidents and allow the orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians. They apply to anyone operating any kind of vehicle including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, and animal-drawn vehicles. They also apply to horseback riders.

Below are Idaho's principal traffic laws. In order to pass your driver's exam, you must learn them along with the safe driving rules covered in other sections of this handbook, many of which also are regulated by law.

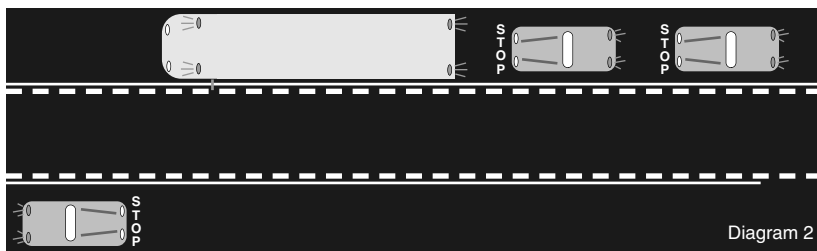
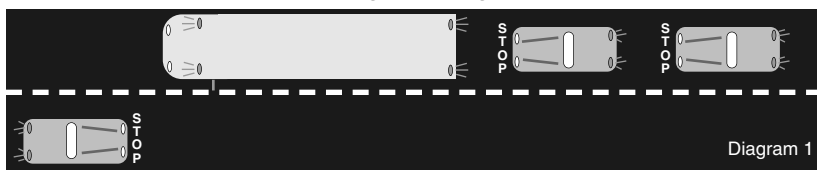
Stopping

You must:

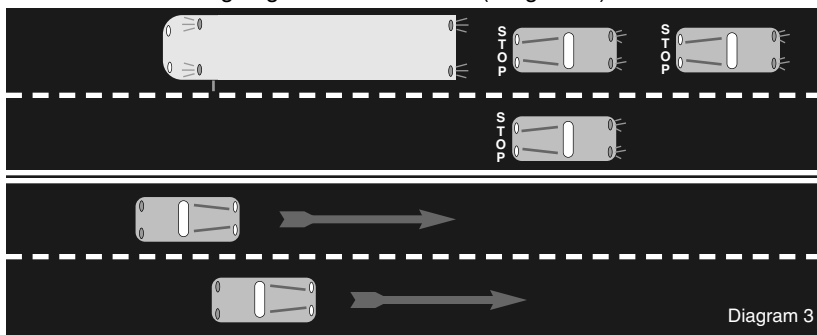
- **STOP** before the stop line or crosswalk at any intersection posted with a stop sign. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection, but close enough to see cross traffic.
- **STOP** for any flashing red signal. It is the same as a stop sign.
- **STOP** for any steady red traffic light and remain stopped behind the stop line. If there is no stop line, do not block the crosswalk. You may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. Similarly, when turning left into a one-way street, you may turn after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. In all other cases, wait until the light turns green before proceeding. When a green arrow is shown along with a steady red light, you may proceed only in the direction of the arrow.
- **STOP** or slow down at an intersection when necessary to yield right of way to a pedestrian crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

- **STOP** at a railway crossing when a train is coming or when wigwag or flashing signals, gates, or a watchman indicates the approach of a train.
- **STOP** when entering a street from an alley, driveway or garage. Stop before crossing the sidewalk and yield to pedestrians and traffic.
- **STOP** upon the request of any police officer.
- **STOP** for emergency or police vehicles sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights. Pull over to the nearest edge of the road where it is legal to park and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed or the police officer has indicated you may proceed. Don't follow the emergency vehicle to see what's going on. Following an emergency vehicle is illegal.

You must stop when approaching a school bus that is displaying flashing signals while stopped to pick up or drop off children. You must remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again. (Diagrams 1 and 2)



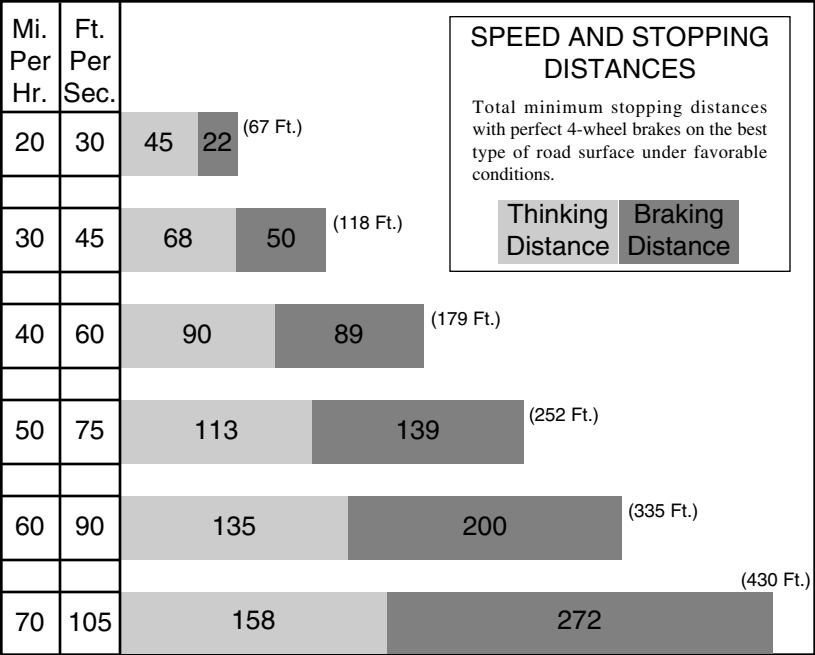
You do not have to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction on roadways with **four or more lanes** if two lanes are going in each direction. (Diagram 3)



STOP for a school bus that is loading or unloading students (see illust. on page 7-2). On a two-lane road, both following and oncoming traffic must stop and remain stopped as long as the red lights near the top of the bus are flashing and/or the stop arm on the left side of the bus is extended. On a highway with two or more lanes going each direction, oncoming traffic is not required to stop when meeting a school bus.

STOP when you are involved in an accident. For more information on accidents, see Chapter 4.

Stop signals: When slowing down or stopping, you must give a signal to other drivers. You may use either an arm signal or the brake-operated signal lights on the rear of your vehicle.



Speed

Excessive speed is a major cause of motor vehicle accidents. When combined with other violations, mechanical failure, or errors in judgment, it often leads to disaster.

Basic Rule

No matter what the speed limit, you are bound by law to judge the situation and slow down when necessary for safety.

- **Normal speed limits:** The maximum speed on city streets is 35 mph (local jurisdictions often reduce the maximum speed to 25 mph); the maximum speed on urban interstate highways is 65 mph; and the maximum speed on rural interstates 75 mph. Elsewhere in rural areas, the maximum speed is 65 mph. However, you must observe the posted speed limits at all times.
- **Posted speed limits:** State and local authorities may adjust speeds by posting speed limit signs. You are responsible to see the signs and obey them.
- **Minimum speeds:** It is illegal to drive so slowly that you disrupt the normal flow of traffic.
- **School zones:** Observe posted speed limits in school zones.

Right-of-Way and Yielding

Idaho law defines when a vehicle or pedestrian must yield the right-of-way, letting another vehicle or pedestrian pass through an intersection first. Always remember that right-of-way is something to be given, not taken.

Pedestrians and Right of Way

Motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians when:

- The pedestrian is in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- The vehicle is entering a street from an alley or driveway.
- The pedestrian is a blind person walking with a white cane or seeing eye dog.

Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles when:

- The pedestrian is crossing a street where there is no crosswalk or intersection.
- Directed to do so by a traffic signal at an intersection or crosswalk.

Yielding to Other Drivers

You must yield to other drivers:

- When directed to do so by a yield sign. As you approach a yield sign, always slow down and be prepared to stop.
- When entering a street from an alley, driveway, or garage after stopping.
- When approached by an emergency or police vehicle sounding a siren and/or flashing red or blue lights. Pull over to the nearest edge of the road where it is legal to park and wait until the emergency or police vehicle has passed.
- When told to do so by a policeman directing traffic. An officer's directions always over-rule signs and signals.
- After stopping for a stop sign at a two-way stop, yield to cross traffic.

- At four-way stops, the first vehicle to arrive has the right of way. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When there are no stop signs, yield signs or signals at an intersection and a vehicle on your right is approaching the intersection at approximately the same time. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When you meet a vehicle traveling in a different direction at an unmarked or uncontrolled “T” intersection, where the highway you are on ends when it intersects a second highway that does not end at the “T” intersection (see page 8-4).
- When making a left turn.
- In construction zones. Yield to all vehicles or pedestrians working on a highway construction project. Also follow directions of flaggers and regulation signs at any highway construction project. Construction signs are orange and black. Slow down and obey posted speed limits around construction sites. You may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for exceeding the speed limit in a construction zone. Merge as soon as possible if signs tell you to do so. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you, traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.

Keep to the Right

In the United States, like most countries, right hand traffic is the rule. This means we drive on the right side of the road. In most cases, the law requires that we stay as far to the right side of a two-way road as possible. There are three exceptions:

- When preparing to make a left turn,
- When on a highway with more than two lanes where the right lane is designated for slow traffic,
- When entering the left lane temporarily in order to pass a slower-moving vehicle, a pedestrian, an animal, or an obstruction.

No Passing Zones

Passing is prohibited:

- Where hills, curves or other obstructions on two-lane roads prevent you from seeing oncoming vehicles that might pose a hazard.
- When a solid yellow line marks the left side of your lane.
- Within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing, unless otherwise indicated by official traffic control devices. For more information on passing in intersections, see page 8-6.
- Within 100 feet of a bridge or tunnel when the view is obstructed.

- Off the pavement or roadway.
- When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.
- When the vehicle ahead has stopped to let a pedestrian cross.

Passing and Being Passed

Passing and being passed are normal parts of driving, but can increase the chances of an accident. Idaho's mountains and winding river canyons make passing risky on many two-lane highways.

If you must pass, do it only when you won't interfere with oncoming traffic or the vehicle you're passing. Wait until you're certain you have enough time, check your mirrors and blind spots (someone else may be trying to pass you), then signal and pass. Before returning to your own lane, signal and wait until you see the vehicle you're passing in your rear-view mirror. If you start to pass, but decide you can't make it, pull back and wait for another opening. Lane markings and signs can tell you when it's unsafe to pass, but only you can tell when it's safe.

Do not pass vehicles at or approaching the following locations:



- **Hills**
- **Curves**
- **Intersections** (see page 8-6 for more details)
- **Railroad Crossings**

Passing on the Right

Passing on the right is prohibited except:

- When the vehicle you're overtaking on a two-lane, two-way road is turning left.
- On a one-way or multi-lane street with two or more lanes going your direction.

When Passing Other Vehicles

- Use your turn signal, then move into the left lane. Passing on the right is prohibited except as outlined above.
- It is illegal to exceed the speed limit when passing.
- At night, flash your lights. If the vehicle you're passing begins to drift toward you, use your horn.
- You must complete a pass before coming within 200 feet of oncoming traffic.
- You should complete a pass before you reach a "No Passing" zone marked with signs or pavement markings. If you're still in the left lane when you reach the zone, you're risking your life.

When Being Passed

- Help other drivers pass you safely. Move to the right side of your lane to give them more room and a better view of the road ahead.
- Don't speed up. Maintain a steady speed or slow down.
- Watch for trouble. If the other driver miscalculates, your quick reaction can save you both.

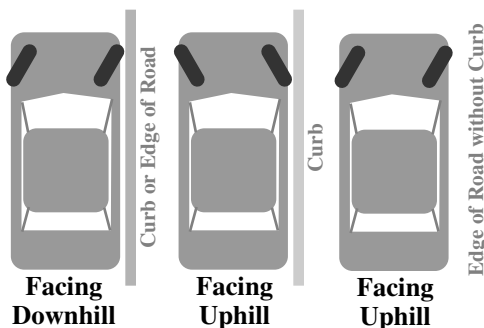
Parking

When parking on a public road, you must park parallel to and within 18 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, facing in the same direction as traffic on your side of the road.

When you leave your car, secure it. Set the parking brake and, if you have an automatic transmission, shift to park; if you have a manual transmission, leave the car in gear. Remove the keys and lock the door.

Parking on a Hill

To keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic when parked on a hill, turn your front wheels (1) sharply toward and against the curb or edge of the road if you are facing downhill, or (2) if you are facing uphill, turn your wheels sharply away and against the curb (if there is no curb, turn the wheels sharply toward the edge of the road).



No-Parking Zones

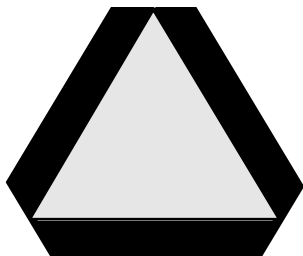
Parking is not allowed:

- On sidewalks.
- On the street side of any parked vehicle.
- In intersections.
- Within 50 feet of railroad tracks.
- On bridges or overpasses.
- In front of a driveway.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk.
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign or traffic signal.
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway.
- On any controlled-access highway.
- Where prohibited by signs or a red, yellow, or white "no parking" curb.

Handicapped Parking

The symbol below indicates parking spaces reserved for handicapped persons. Vehicles displaying this symbol on their license plate or a special card may park in handicapped spaces. Non-handicapped drivers are prohibited from parking in such spaces and may be fined for violations.

Drivers of automobiles displaying the handicapped symbol may also park in public parking spaces without paying and for unlimited time.



The slow-moving-vehicle emblem (shown above) has a red perimeter and orange center.

Slow-Moving Vehicles

A vehicle traveling so slowly that it is delaying three or more other vehicles must turn off the road wherever safe to let the other vehicles pass.

Slow-moving vehicles designed to travel no faster than 25 mph may travel upon public highways only from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset.

Snow removal equipment and farm equipment operated on non-interstate highways are exempt from this provision.

All slow-moving vehicles must be equipped with a foot brake and turn signals and must display the approved emblem for slow-moving vehicles.

Overhanging Loads

When a load on a vehicle extends four feet or more beyond the rear of a vehicle, a red flag at least 16 inches square must be displayed at the end of the load. At night, the flag must be replaced by a red light visible for a least 500 feet. The load on a passenger vehicle must not extend outside the fenders on the left side or more than six inches outside the fenders on the right.

Open Container Law

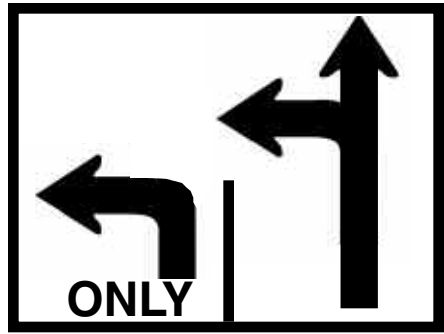
It is against state law to carry in the passenger compartment or glove box of your vehicle any container of wine or liquor that has been opened or the seal broken. Any such containers of alcoholic beverages must be carried in the trunk or some area of the vehicle not normally occupied by the driver or passengers. State law does not cover the transport of open containers of beer, but some local laws prohibit that, too.

Reckless and Inattentive Driving

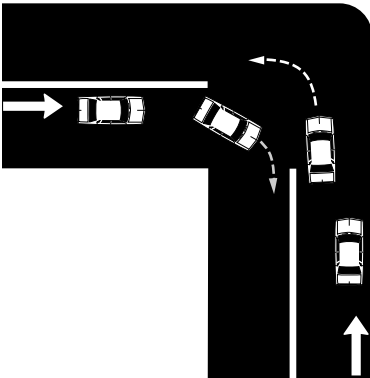
You must not drive a vehicle with willful disregard for the safety of people or property either on a public road or private property. Violation of this law is known as reckless driving. While driving, you must also give your full attention to the safe operation of your vehicle. Failure to do so is punishable as reckless or inattentive driving.

Turns

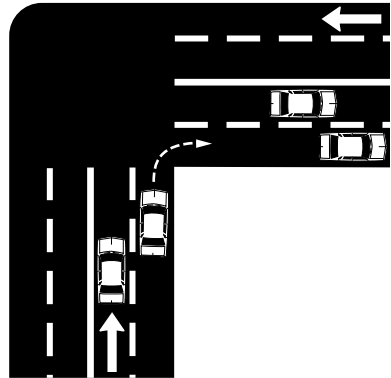
Decide in advance where you want to turn. Never make a last-minute choice. If you miss your turn, do



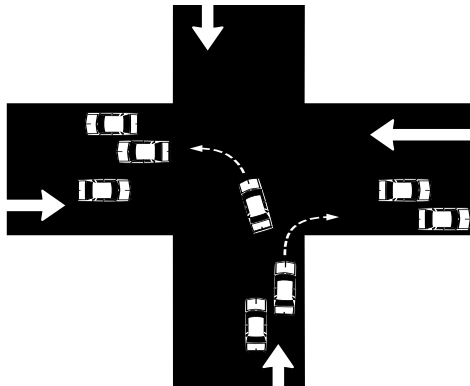
Vehicles in the left lane must turn left. Vehicles in the right lane may turn left or continue straight ahead. Vehicles turning left must remain in their lane of travel until after completing the turn.



Left turns.



Right turns.

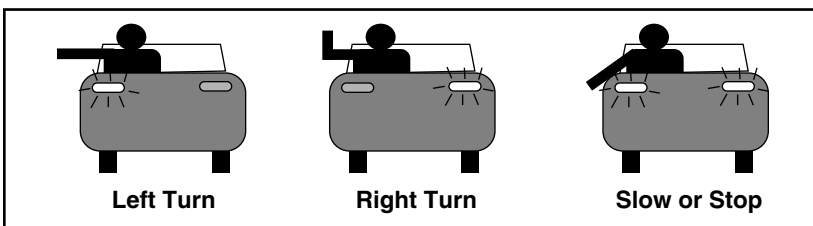


Left and right turns in unmarked intersections

not back up. It's better to take the next turn than risk a collision. To prepare for a turn, you must signal and move into the proper lane at least 100 feet before you make the turn.

The diagrams below illustrate the proper lanes for starting and ending a turn unless an intersection is marked otherwise.

You must signal before every turn or lane change.



- **Signals:** You must signal for either 100 feet or five seconds before turning or changing lanes. You can use either arm signals or the electrical signals on your vehicle.
- **Right Turns:** Give your signal and approach the intersection in the right-hand lane, staying as close to the right curb as is reasonable. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. Watch for bicycles between your vehicle and the curb or that are inappropriately approaching from the right. Then turn into the right-hand lane of the cross street. Do not swing wide.
- **Left Turns:** Give your signal and approach the intersection in the farthest lane to the left that is open to traffic going your direction. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. When safe, turn into the nearest lane in which traffic moves the direction you want to go. Do not cut the corner.
- **Exceptions:** Sometimes, heavily traveled intersections may be posted to allow left or right turns from and/or into more than one lane.
- **At a Red Light:** At a steady red light, you may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic - unless otherwise posted. When turning left into a one-way street, you may proceed from a steady red light after stopping and yielding for cross traffic - unless otherwise posted.
- **U-Turns:** The safest way to turn around is to circle the block.

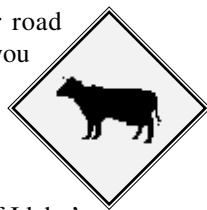
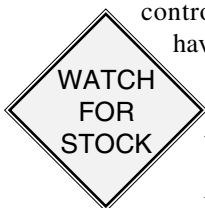
When that's not possible, the second-best choice is a U-turn. They're not legal everywhere, so first look for prohibiting signs. Also, when making a U-turn near a hill or curve, the law requires that you be able to see 500 feet in either direction. U-turns are prohibited in no-passing zones.

When ready to make your turn, first move into the proper lane. On a two-lane street, move as far right as possible. On multi-lane streets where U-turns are permitted, move into the left-turn lane. Stop and yield to all traffic before completing the U-turn.

- **Three-Point Turns:** When the road is too narrow for a U-turn, make a three-point turn. First move as far right as possible, stop, check traffic and signal a left turn. Then, turn sharply to your left, stopping at the opposite edge of the road. Shift to reverse, check traffic and back slowly, turning to the right. Stop and check traffic again. Shift back to drive and complete the turn.

Livestock on Roads

Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and other livestock under controlled movement over a highway or road have the right of way in Idaho. When you meet or overtake any livestock herd, be careful and cooperate with the workers in charge.



Livestock also run at large in much of Idaho's range country, and they have the right of way. Drivers must be alert for animals grazing unattended on "open range," which means almost all areas outside of city limits and herd districts upon which cattle by custom, license, lease, or permit, are grazed or permitted to roam. The presence of fences does not necessarily mean that animals are not present or do not have the right of way. Be especially careful driving at night. If you strike and injure or kill livestock or domestic animals that are on the open range or under controlled movement, you are liable for the injuries or death of the animals. You must stop and give the animal reasonable attention, then notify the owner or police.

Other Laws You Need to Know

- **Lights:** Headlamps and taillamps must be lighted from sunset to sunrise and when poor visibility makes them necessary for safety. Headlamps must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting and 200 feet before overtaking another vehicle. When lights are needed for driving, use headlamps, not parking lights.

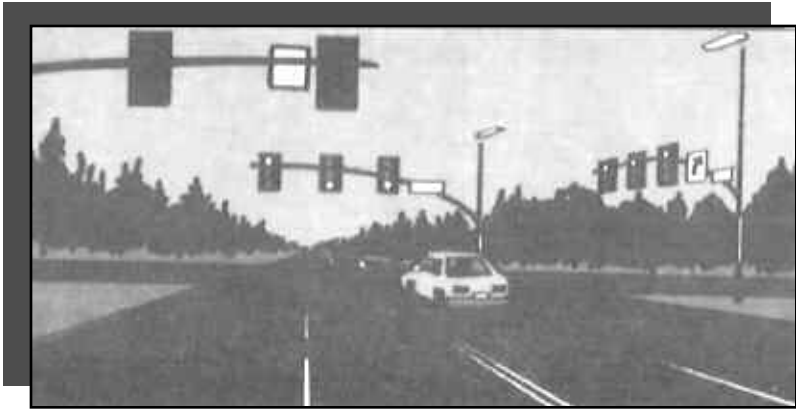
- **Drugs or Alcohol:** Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited and violators are subject to severe penalties. For more information, see Chapter 6.
- **Median Strip:** It's illegal to drive across a barrier or unpaved strip that separates two halves of a roadway except at an authorized opening or crossover. This is not allowed on Interstate highways.
- **Weaving Through Traffic:** It's illegal to weave from one lane to another to move faster than the traffic flow. Drivers must stay within a single lane as much as possible.
- **Racing:** It's illegal to engage in any vehicle race, speed exhibition or speed contest on any public road, street, or highway.
- **Driving on Sidewalks:** Driving on sidewalks is prohibited except to cross into a driveway or alley.
- **Keep Windows and Windshield Clear:** Windows and windshields must be kept clean of signs, posters, and stickers except those required by law. You must also clean windows of ice, snow, or dirt before driving to ensure that you have maximum visibility in all directions.
- **Backing:** Backing is always prohibited on freeways, expressways and other controlled-access highways including the shoulder. Elsewhere, backing is discouraged unless absolutely necessary and is prohibited unless it can be done safely and without interfering with other traffic.
- **Obstructing Driver's View:** It is illegal for passengers or freight to obstruct a driver's view or interfere with operation of a vehicle.

Study Questions

1. True or False. Automobiles must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
2. What must you do before entering a street from an alley, driveway, or garage?
3. If you hear a siren but cannot see an emergency vehicle, what action should you take?
4. True or False. When a school bus is unloading passengers on a two-lane highway, cars traveling the opposite direction don't have to stop.
5. True or False. You may legally drive the posted speed limit no matter what the driving conditions.
6. If two vehicles are stopped at right angles at an uncontrolled intersection, which vehicle has the right-of-way?
7. Under what conditions may you pass another vehicle on the right?
8. How many feet before a turn must you signal your intention to turn?
9. Where should you position your vehicle when preparing to make a right turn?
10. Which lane should your vehicle be in after turning left into a two-lane, one-way street?
11. When must headlamps and taillights be lighted?
12. Does an oncoming vehicle have the right of way when you are making a left turn at an uncontrolled intersection?

CHAPTER 8

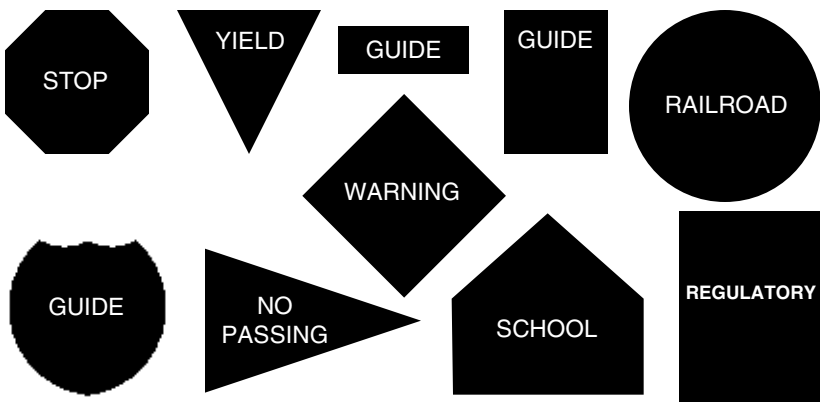
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS



Signs, signals, and markings regulate your driving, tell you on what highway you're traveling, and direct you to needed services. Without them, traffic on streets and highways would be uncontrolled and dangerous. Traffic jams would be common and you would probably find it impractical to drive.

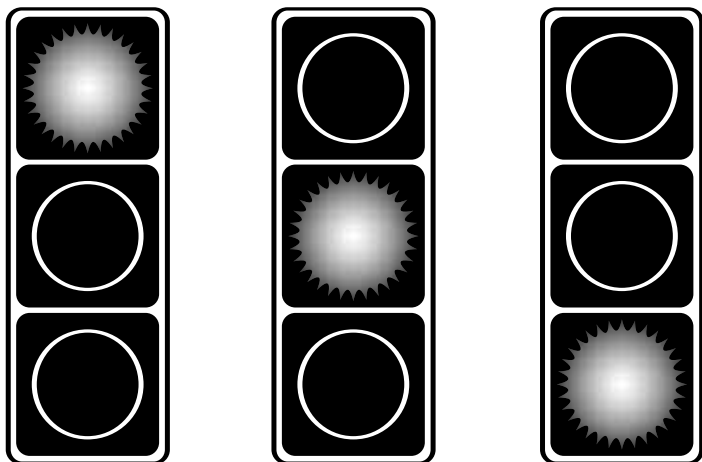
Traffic Signs

There are three kinds of traffic signs: regulatory, warning, and guide. The most important are illustrated on the following pages. You should learn to recognize them by color and shape as well as the messages or symbols they carry. The illustration below shows the ten basic sign shapes found on Idaho streets and highways.



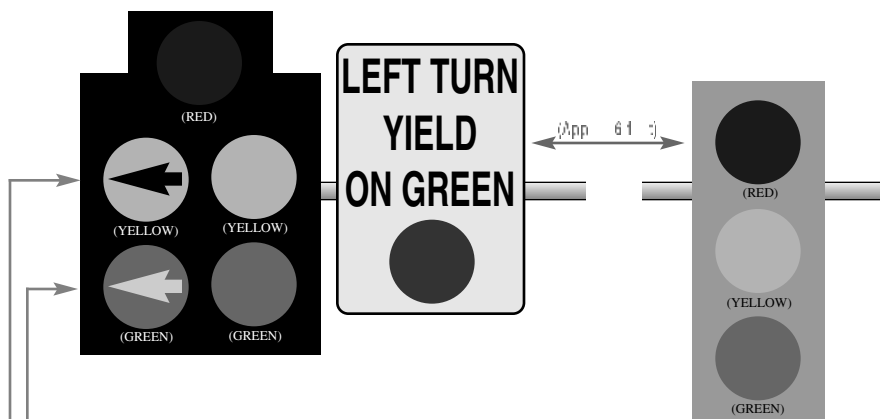
Traffic Signals

Traffic signals are lights that tell you when or where to stop and go. Most traffic lights are located near intersections, and have a red light at the top, a yellow light in the middle, and a green light at the bottom.



- **Red Light:** Stop. Come to a complete stop before you reach the intersection, stop line, or crosswalk. Remain stopped until the light changes and cross traffic clears the intersection.
- **Yellow Light:** Caution. An amber or yellow light warns that the signal is about to change. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a safe stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.
- **Green Light:** Go. You may pass through the intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the way is clear.
- **Flashing Red Light:** Stop. You must come to a complete stop, yield to cross traffic or pedestrians, then go on when the way is clear.
- **Flashing Yellow Light:** Caution. You should slow down, look carefully for hazards and proceed with caution.

Some intersections and other locations have single red, yellow, or green lights. Other traffic signals have yellow (proceed with caution) or green (proceed if it is safe) arrows showing which direction to turn. A red arrow means that you cannot turn in the direction the arrow is pointing.



“Dog House” Signals

Idaho highway districts are beginning to use a new type of traffic signal to improve traffic flow at major intersections. The new signals (affectionately termed “Dog House” signals) display five lights instead of the three standard “red, yellow, and green” lights. In most Idaho counties, the “dog house” signal will be positioned to the left of a standard three-light signal at intersections, as shown in the above illustration.

The purpose of “dog house” signals is to allow more vehicles to make left turns at intersections, if it is safe to do so. When you approach a “dog house” signal:

- a single red light means “STOP.”
- the solid-green circular light on the right means (1) “PROCEED FORWARD,” or (2) if you are in the left turn lane “YIELD TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC BEFORE TURNING LEFT.”
- the solid-yellow circular light on the right means “PROCEED FORWARD WITH CAUTION, THE SIGNAL IS CHANGING.”
- the green light on the left with an arrow means “PROCEED LEFT.” This indicates that you may turn left and that oncoming traffic is required to stop, regardless of what other lights are lit.
- the yellow light on the left with an arrow means “PROCEED LEFT WITH CAUTION, THE SIGNAL IS CHANGING.”

Barricades

Highway departments and construction crews often perform work that requires traffic lanes and/or entire roads to be temporarily or permanently

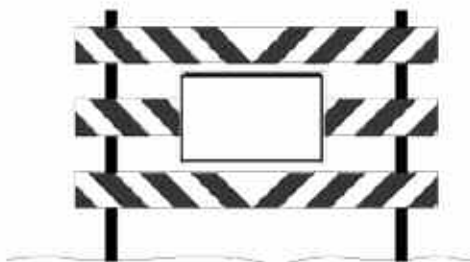
closed. If a lane or road is closed to traffic, one of three types of barricades will be placed in the road as a warning to drivers.

Barricades are either red and white or orange and white (red barricades are permanent, orange barricades are temporary). Even though barricades can be different colors, the instructions they impart to drivers are the same.

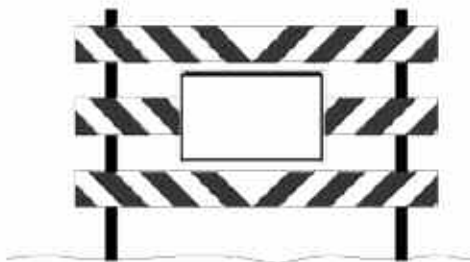
The V-shaped pattern on this barricade means that the road is closed, and that traffic can proceed no farther.



The lines on this barricade angle to the left, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the left side.



The lines on this barricade angle to the right, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the right side.

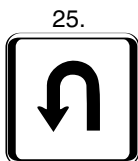
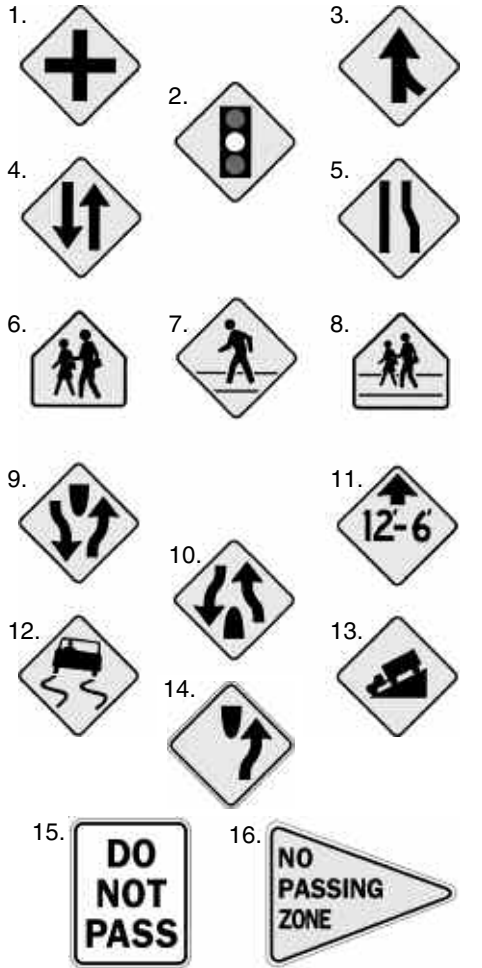


Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs are usually found where traffic conditions change or where heavy traffic must be controlled. The signs tell you what you can or cannot do at certain street or highway locations. They also tell you when restrictions end, and warn you of special or hazardous conditions ahead.

REGULATORY/WARNING
SIGNS

1. Intersection
2. Traffic Signal
3. Merging Traffic
4. Two-way Traffic
5. Lane Ends
6. School Zone (obey posted speed-limit signs in school zones)
7. Pedestrian Crossing
8. School Crossing
9. Divided Roadway
10. Divided Roadway Ends
11. Bridge Clearance
12. Slippery When Wet
13. Hill
14. Keep Right of Island
15. Do Not Pass
16. No Passing Zone
17. Stop
18. No Left Turn
19. No Right Turn
20. No U-Turn
21. 2-Track Railroad Crossing
22. Proceed Straight Ahead
23. Turn Left
24. Turn Right
25. U-Turn



Regulatory signs tell you the rules of the road and must be obeyed at all times. The following regulatory signs mean:



- **Stop:** Stop and come to a complete halt before entering the intersection ahead. Stop before crossing a stop line or entering a crosswalk.



- **Yield:** Slow down so that, if necessary for safety, you can yield the right of way to pedestrians or vehicles.



- **Wrong Way:** You are approaching a lane of traffic from the wrong way.



- **Do Not Enter:** You are approaching a lane of traffic from the wrong way.



- **One Way:** Traffic may travel only in the direction indicated by the arrow.



- **3-Way Intersection:** You are approaching a 3-way “T” intersection and will have to turn either to the right or the left. You must stop and/or yield to drivers approaching from the other two directions.



- **Open Range:** You are traveling in an area where livestock have the right of way and are allowed to roam freely and unfenced.



- **Slow-Moving Vehicle:** You are approaching a slow moving vehicle. Slow down and approach the vehicle with caution.

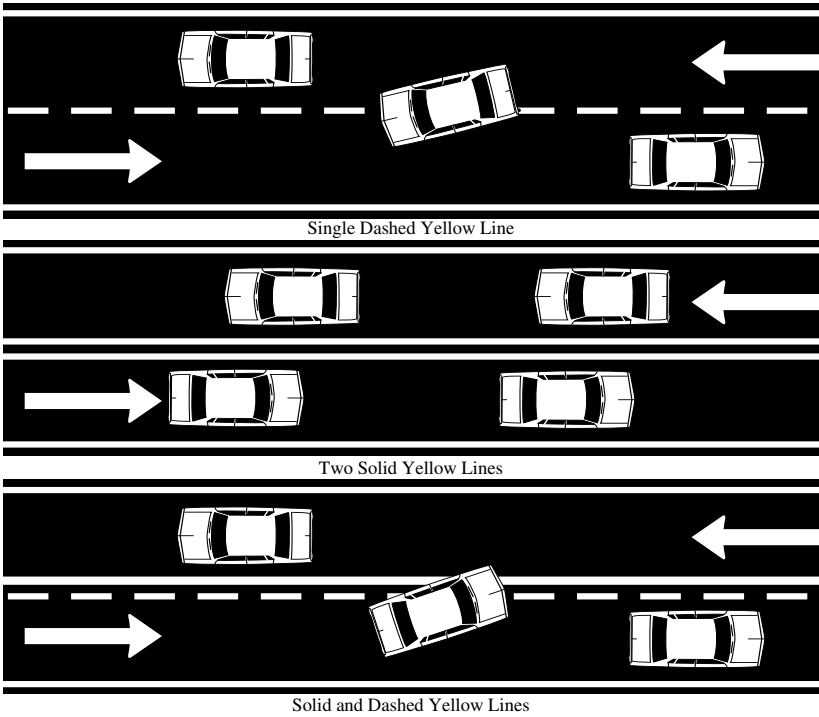
NOTE: This sign is used primarily on off-road vehicles (implements of husbandry, construction equipment, etc.). It cannot be legally displayed on vehicles subject to registration.



- **Speed Limit:** The maximum speed limit on this section of road (under ideal driving conditions) is 35 miles per hour.

Pavement Markings

Lines and symbols on the roadway divide lanes and tell you where you may pass other vehicles or change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, where pedestrians may walk, and where you must stop for signs or traffic signals.

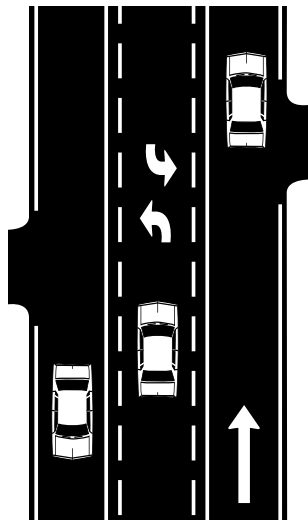


Lane Dividers: The above drawing shows three types of lane dividing lines. A dashed yellow line means that vehicles in either lane can cross the line if it is safe to do so. If the dashed yellow line is marked through an intersection, you may pass vehicles in the intersection. Otherwise, no passing is allowed in intersections.

Two solid yellow lines mean that neither lane of traffic can cross the lines unless they are turning into a driveway (if it is safe to do so). No passing is allowed.

A solid yellow line with a dashed yellow line mean that only vehicles in the lane with the dashed line (lower lane in this drawing) can cross the lines to pass other vehicles.

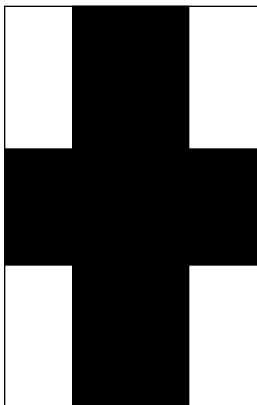
Shared Lanes: Center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) from either direction of travel. Shared center lanes are marked on each side by a solid and yellow dashed lines.



Shared Center Lane

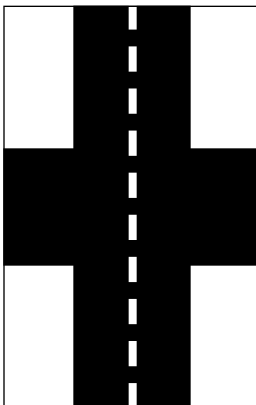
Passing in an Intersection

Passing Prohibited



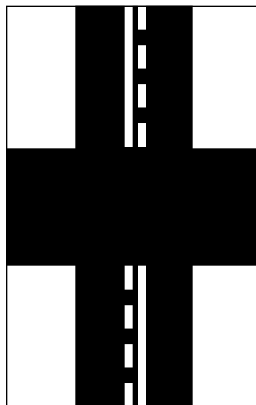
No Pavement Markings

Passing Permitted



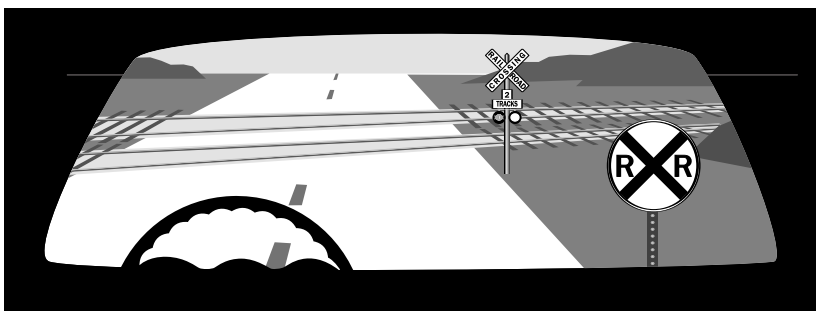
Center Line Only

Passing Prohibited



Center Line and
No-Passing Line

Railroad Crossings



Railroad crossings are always dangerous. Driver's should listen and look both ways for an approaching train, and for signals indicating an approaching train. Never proceed until you are certain it is safe to do so. When required to stop, you should do so within 50 feet, but no less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing.

The chance of death or serious injury in a collision between a train and a motor vehicle is 40 times greater than for other highway accidents. The stopping distance for a 150-car freight train traveling 50 mph is 7,000 feet or 1 and 1/3 miles. **Trains can't stop, cars can.** It's up to you to protect your life and the lives of your passengers at a railway crossing.

Learn the signs and devices that highway departments and railway companies put up to warn you of danger at a crossing:

- Many times, pavements are marked in advance of a crossing with an X and the letters RR.



- Railroad crossbuck signs can be found at most crossings.
- Flashing-light signals are often combined with crossbucks at crossings on busy streets and highways.
- Gates are used to stop automobile traffic at many particularly dangerous crossings.

You can avoid a tragedy by following a few safety tips:

- Expect a train at any time. Always be careful at a crossing, even if you know few trains pass that way.
- Never start across tracks unless there is room on the other side for your vehicle.
- Never drive around gates or fail to heed a warning signal, even if you can't see a train approaching.
- Never shift gears while driving through a crossing. Doing so may cause your vehicle to stall on the tracks.
- Never race a train to a crossing.
- Watch out for a second train. Do not start up until you're sure no train is approaching on another track.
- Watch out for vehicles that must stop at crossings. Some buses and trucks are required to stop at all railroad crossings.
- Look both ways as you approach a railroad crossing, even if the flasher is not flashing. It may be broken.

Study Questions

1. What does a STOP sign mean?
2. What does a YIELD sign mean?
3. What should you do when you approach an intersection and the traffic light changes from green to yellow?
4. How may you proceed at an intersection that has a green arrow in combination with a red light?
5. What does a flashing red light mean?
6. What does a flashing yellow light mean?
7. Is it legal to pass on a two-lane, two-way road when you have a solid yellow line on your side?

Know Your Traffic Signs

You must also be able to identify and show the meaning of all the traffic signs in this section.

CHAPTER 9

ADJUSTING TO DRIVING CONDITIONS



Driving conditions change with the weather, light, or terrain. Study the suggestions below so you can react quickly and properly when you run into a new situation.

Night Driving

About 90% of driving decisions are based on what you see. At night, your vision is reduced. To make sure you have time to react to danger, always drive slowly enough so you can stop within the distance you can see ahead, about 350 feet on the high beams of your headlights, about 100 feet on low beams.

Below are some other tips to make your night driving safer.

- Turn on your headlights (not just your parking lights) when driving between sundown and sunrise, or at any other time when there is not enough light to clearly see people and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet. The grey of twilight is one of the most dangerous times of the day.
- Keep your eyes open for slow-moving or unlighted vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and animals.
- Keep farther behind the vehicle in front of you than you do during the daylight hours.
- Allow more distance and time for passing.
- Don't keep driving if you're tired.
- Never wear sunglasses during low-light levels.
- Keep your windshield clean, both inside and out.
- Keep your headlights clean. Dirt will dim their light and may distort the beam.
- Try not to look into the headlights of oncoming vehicles. Instead, shift your eyes down to the lower right side of your traffic lane.

- This keeps the light from hitting your eyes directly.
- Dim your headlights to low beam when approaching or following another vehicle or on lighted roads.
- If you must park on a highway shoulder at night, turn on your parking lights or emergency flashers.

Fog, Smoke, Dust, or Rain

You are required to turn on your headlights in the daytime when vision is reduced to 500 feet or less. Low beams are best at such times. When you first turn on your headlights, be sure they are adjusted to low beams. Motorcyclists running with headlights on during the day should also be using the low beam only.

It is safest not to drive in fog, a dust storm, or heavy rain. If you must drive, then reduce your speed. Slow down more when you see red taillights ahead. The car may be stopped or creeping along. If conditions get too bad, pull off the road and stop. Don't creep along; somebody else may crash into you. Also avoid using your four-way flashers while moving; other drivers may think you've stopped.

Rain and Hydroplaning

Wet roads can be as dangerous as icy roads. Always cut your speed in wet weather. You'll need more distance for stopping and you may skid on quick turns.

Remember, roads are more dangerous at the start of a light rain when road oil and water mix to form a greasy film on the road.

At speeds up to 35 mph, most tires grip the road surface even when it's wet. As speed increases, the tires can't grip the road as well. They start to "hydroplane" or ride on top of a film of water like a set of water skis.

With most cars, the danger of hydroplaning begins at about 35 mph and increases as speed increases. In a bad rainstorm, the tires may lose all contact with the road at 55 mph. When that happens, you can't brake, accelerate, or turn. A gust of wind, a curve or even a lane change can cause a skid.

To reduce the chances of hydroplaning, you should:

- Slow down during rainstorms or when roads are slushy.
- Slow down if the road has standing water or puddles.
- Replace tires as soon as they become worn.
- Keep tires properly inflated.

If you are about to drive over a slippery area or you think your car has started to hydroplane:

- Maintain a steady speed and keep moving in a straight line.
- Slowly take your foot off the gas pedal.
- Don't try to stop or turn quickly until your tires are gripping the road again.
- If you have to use your brakes, pump them gently.

Winter Driving

Winter driving calls for special skills. On slippery roads, the keys to safety are slower speeds, gentler stops and turns, and longer following distances. Here are some safe-driving tips that will help you when roads are slick with ice or snow:

- Get the feel of the road by starting out slowly and testing your steering control and braking ability. Never spin your tires when you start. Gently press your gas pedal until the car starts to roll. Start slowing down at least three times sooner than you normally do when turning or stopping.
- Use tire chains on very slippery roads.
- When stopping, avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel and pump the brake gently. (If the vehicle has anti-lock brakes, you may apply steady pressure to the brake pedal.)
- Keep your vehicle in the best possible driving condition. The lights, tires, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, and radiator are especially important for winter driving.
- Keep your windows clear. Don't start driving until the windows are defrosted and clean - even if you're going only a short distance.
- Watch for slippery spots ahead. Ice may remain on bridges even though the rest of the road is clear. Snow and ice also stick longer in shaded areas.

Getting Stranded During Winter Weather

Idaho winters can be severe, particularly in the mountains. When traveling in winter months, be prepared in case your car breaks down or you get in an accident where help may not arrive immediately. Always carry warm clothing and blankets or a sleeping bag. You may need these items if you have to wait for help.

If you get stranded:

- Stay with the car if heavy snow is falling. Most deaths occur when people leave the car, get lost and freeze.
- Put a red flag on your radio antenna or driver's door handle. If

- you have flares, place them to the front and rear of the car.
- Run the engine and heater until the car is fairly warm, then shut it off. Repeat this when you start to feel cold. Don't run the engine continuously; this increases the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Provide a little fresh air to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, even if it's very cold.
- Keep yourself and your passengers as active as possible. Don't let anybody go to sleep.

Mountain Driving

Idaho's mountains are beautiful, but they create special problems for drivers. When driving in the mountains, you should:

- Pay special attention to speed limit signs and signs warning of curves, steep hills, or other hazards.
- Stay close to the right edge of the road to be away from oncoming traffic.
- Use a lower gear to control speeds while going down long hills.
- Never coast downhill by shifting into neutral or disengaging the clutch.
- Watch for a solid yellow line in your lane marking a no-passing zone. Sound the horn when approaching any curve on a narrow road where the view is obstructed.

Wildlife Areas

Small animals in the road are dangerous because motorists sometimes lose control while trying to avoid the animals. When you see a small animal in the road, think of your own safety. Don't try to dodge it unless you're sure the move is safe.

Big game animals, mostly deer, can cause heavy damage to a vehicle. When you see a deer on or near the road, slow down and proceed with caution. Others are usually nearby.

Sometimes a deer moves into the path of a vehicle so quickly, it's impossible to slow down enough to safely avoid hitting the animal. In this case, you must consider running over the animal as the safest alternative, even though the crash may damage your vehicle and will likely kill the deer. Concentrate on keeping control of the vehicle before, during, and after the collision.

Study Questions

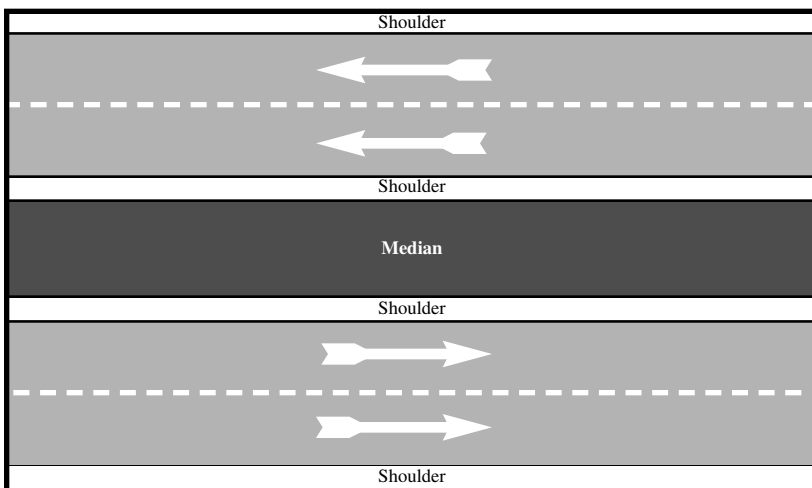
1. Why is night driving more dangerous than daytime driving?
2. At night, how can you reduce the problem of glare from the headlights of oncoming vehicles?
3. When driving through heavy daytime fog, should you drive with your headlights on high beam?
4. True or false: In the winter time, it is okay to leave frost on your windshield and windows during short trips.
5. What must you do to reduce the chances of hydroplaning when roads are wet?

CHAPTER 10

FREEWAY DRIVING



Freeways, interstates, expressways, and toll roads offer fast and efficient routes of travel. They're usually safer than other kinds of roads because they have one-way traffic, a limited number of entrances, and other special safety features. On the other hand, they can encourage boredom and fatigue that the driver must guard against. Where designated as permissible by federal law, vehicles may travel at speeds up to 75 mph on rural interstates, and up to 65 mph on urban interstate highways, unless otherwise posted. At these speeds, a single error can be disastrous.



Travel Plans

Before starting a long freeway trip, make yourself a travel plan. Plan for food, rest, and fuel stops. On short trips, know the name, route, entrance, and exit numbers.

Entering a Freeway

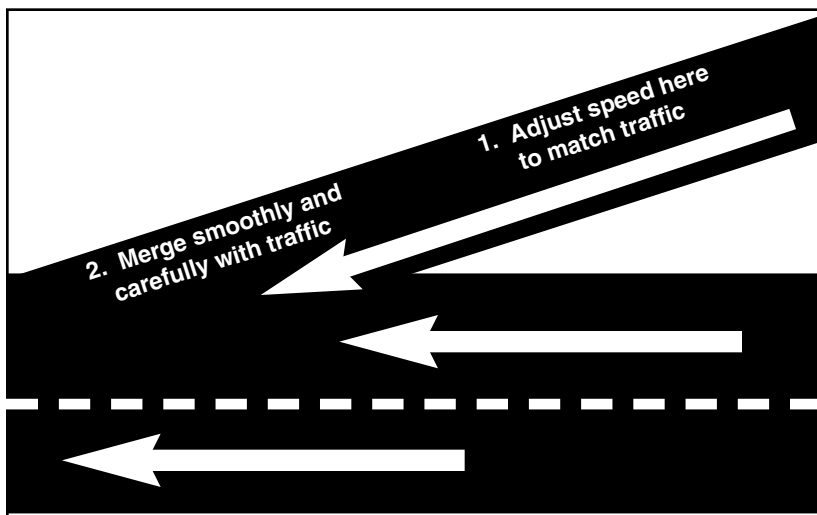
Freeway entrances usually have three basic parts: an entrance ramp, an acceleration lane, and a merging area.

While on the entrance ramp you have a chance to observe traffic conditions on the freeway. The ramp will straighten out into the acceleration lane where you should accelerate to the speed of freeway traffic. In the merging area, you must blend into the flow of traffic on the freeway's outside lane.

Follow these procedures:

- Before you enter the ramp, make sure it's the one you want. If you enter the wrong entrance by mistake, don't try to back up or turn around through the median (see pages 7-11 and 7-12). Enter the freeway and get off at the next exit.
- Once on the ramp, check traffic around you and on the freeway. Signal and begin looking over your left shoulder for a gap in the traffic large enough for your vehicle to fit into without crowding anyone.
- As the ramp straightens, accelerate to the speed of the freeway traffic so you can blend in smoothly. Remember, you must yield to the traffic already on the highway.
- Once you're traveling at the speed of traffic, you can make a simple lane change, merge with the flow of vehicles, and turn off your turn signal.

Entering a Freeway



Possible Entrance Problems

The suggestions above were written with an ideal freeway entrance in mind. Sometimes on older freeway entrances or freeways built with limited space, the ramp, acceleration lane, or merging area may be shorter than ideal. In such places, or when traffic is heavy, you may have to take extra precautions.

For example, in heavy traffic gaps are hard to find. If there's no opening, you may have to slow down before reaching the end of the acceleration lane.

Sometimes a short acceleration lane combined with heavy traffic will force you to stop. When that happens, be sure to leave enough room ahead so you can accelerate up to the speed of freeway traffic as you merge. Wait until there is a gap large enough for you to reach cruising speed without interfering with oncoming vehicles. Then signal your entrance and accelerate as rapidly as you can to blend in with the traffic flow.

Don't Drive Too Fast or Slow

Once on the freeway, you should maintain a steady speed and keep up with the flow or traffic. Where designated as permissible by federal law and as weather conditions permit, vehicles may travel 75 mph on freeways/rural interstates, and 65 mph on freeways/urban interstates, unless otherwise posted. Since it's dangerous to drive slow when other traffic is going fast, a minimum speed may also be posted. If you can't or don't want to drive at the common speed on a freeway, use another kind of road.

Changing Lanes

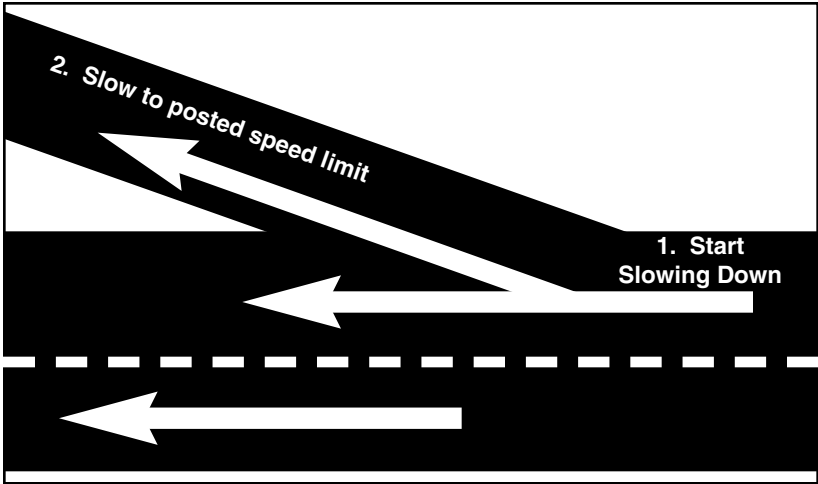
Most of the time you should drive in the far right or center lane of the freeway. The left lane is for higher-speed traffic and passing. During rush hours, you should avoid the right lane to allow room for drivers entering the freeway.

Leaving the Freeway

Getting off a freeway can be a simple maneuver if you know which exit to take, and follow the signs marking the lane for that exit.

Follow these steps:

- About a half mile before the exit, signal and move into the lane nearest the exit. Then move into the deceleration lane provided to let you slow down without interrupting the flow of traffic.



Leaving a Freeway

- An exit speed may be posted. Adjust your speed accordingly as you drive through the ramp.
- As you leave the ramp and enter another thoroughfare, remember, you'll be driving in more complicated, dangerous traffic than on the freeway. Be alert and adjust to the new conditions and slower speeds.

Study Questions

1. Why are minimum speeds posted on some freeways?
2. What is the purpose of a freeway acceleration lane?
3. What should you do if you miss your exit off of a freeway?
4. How do you enter a freeway with a very short acceleration lane?

CHAPTER 11

A SAFE VEHICLE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



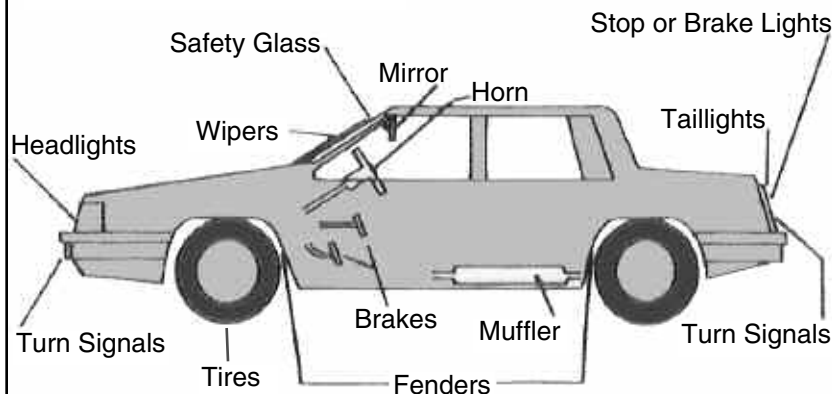
Under Idaho law, you may not drive any vehicle that is mechanically unsafe. If your vehicle needs repairs, lacks vital equipment, or presents some other danger, you are responsible for correcting the problem.

Idaho does not require an annual safety inspection, but if you are stopped by a police officer who finds your vehicle is unsafe or lacks proper equipment, the officer may issue you a citation.

Required Equipment

- **Brakes:** All motor vehicles except motorcycles must have two brake systems designed so that if one fails the other still works. Foot brakes must stop a vehicle that is traveling 20 mph on dry pavement within a distance of 25 feet. The emergency or parking brake must stop the vehicle within 55 feet under similar conditions, and must hold the car stationary on a hill when parked. Motorcycles must have at least one brake, operated by either hand or foot.
- **Headlights:** Motorcycles must have at least one headlamp equipped with both high and low beams. All other motor vehicles must have at least two such headlamps aimed to light the road without blinding oncoming drivers. High beams must allow the driver to see people and vehicles at least 350 feet away. Low beams must light the roadway at least 100 feet ahead. Headlights are not to be covered with any reflective, opaque, or non-transparent material.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT



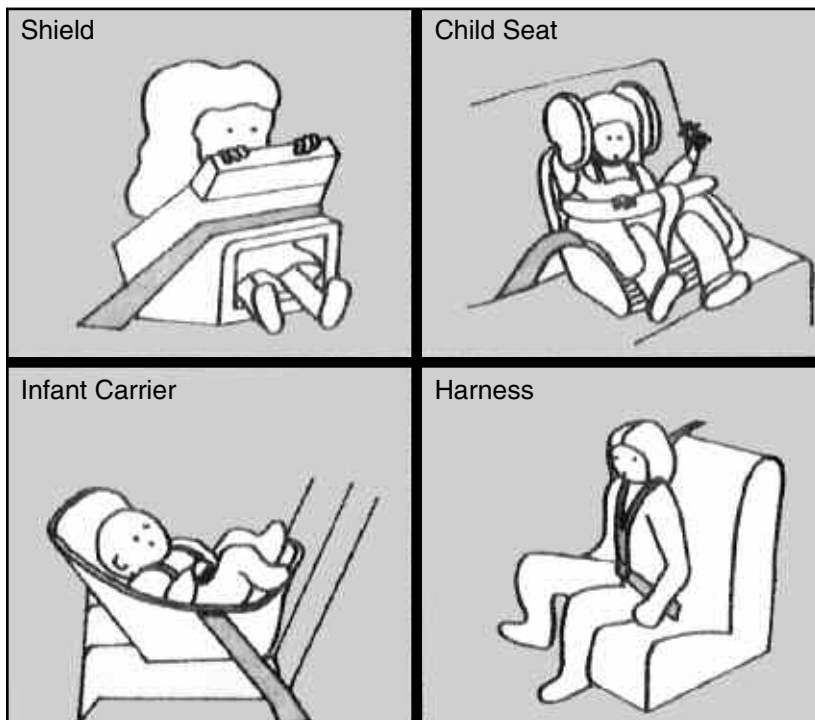
- **Stop or Brake Lights:** All motor vehicles must have functioning red or amber brake lights visible for at least 100 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. Brake lights must be designed to come on when you apply the foot brake. Keep the brake light lenses clean of dirt and snow. For a skills test, both brake lights must be functioning properly.
- **Taillights:** Vehicles built before January 1, 1956, and motorcycles must have at least one red light mounted on the rear. All other motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers must have at least two red lights mounted on the left and right rear. These taillights must be visible at least 500 feet to the rear at times when lights are required (sundown to sunrise).
- **Turn Signals:** All motor vehicles built after January 1, 1955, must have flashing electric left-turn and right-turn signals on the front and rear with a switch that can be controlled by the driver. The front signals must be white or amber and the rear signals must be red or amber.
- **Tires:** Each tire should have at least 1/32" of tread groove.
- **Horns:** All motor vehicles must have a horn that can be heard at least 200 feet away. Horns with unreasonably loud or harsh sounds are prohibited. It is illegal to honk your horn unless necessary for safety.
- **Windows and Windshields:** Windows and windshields must be made of approved safety glass; must be replaced when damage to the glass hampers the driver's view; must be kept free of signs or stickers not required by law; must not be blocked by any object placed or hung in the vehicle; and must be kept free of frost, snow, dirt, or anything else that obscures the driver's visibility.

Windshields and front side windows cannot be treated with a mirror surface or other substance that makes them difficult to see through, even from the outside.

- **Windshield Wipers:** All motor vehicles must be equipped with wipers to keep the windshield clear of rain, snow, or other moisture.
- **Mirrors:** All motor vehicles must have a rear view mirror that provides a view of the highway for a least 200 feet to the rear. If a load or trailer obscures the driver's normal view through the rear window, the vehicle must have two additional rear view mirrors, one on each side of the vehicle.
- **Mufflers:** All motor vehicles must have a muffler that is in good working order that prevents loud or unusual noise.
- **Fenders and Flaps:** All motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers must have fenders, wheel covers or flaps to prevent mud, water, or other material from being thrown from the wheels up onto other vehicles.

Child Restraints are Required

Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for American children over one year of age. Some 1,500 children die in auto accidents each year. Another 100,000 are injured.



Approved Child-Restraint Systems

Most of these deaths and injuries can be avoided if parents take the time to buckle their children into an approved child restraint system.

Idaho law requires anyone carrying children under the age of four years and weighing less than 40 pounds in a non-commercial motor vehicle to properly protect children in approved child car safety seats. The law applies to cars manufactured with car safety belts after January 1, 1966.

Proper protection means:

- Using approved safety seats (seats that meet federal safety standards).
- Child must be snugly fitted into safety seats with the straps that are attached to the seat.
- Safety seat must be fastened to the automobile with the car safety belt.
- Using safety seats on every trip.

Seat Belts and Shoulder Straps

Idaho law requires occupants to wear safety belts or shoulder straps when riding in the front seat of cars and pick-ups equipped with these devices by the factory. Studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that when worn, safety belts:

- reduce your chances of serious injury in an auto accident by 50%.
- are 60-70% effective in preventing fatalities in auto accidents.

Safety belts also help drivers maintain control of their car on winding or rough roads or when trying to avoid a collision.

Studded Snow Tires

In general, studded snow tires may be used only from October 1 to April 15. Some years, the Idaho Transportation Department adjusts the dates due to weather conditions.

Equipment Not Allowed

- Red or blue emergency lights. These are authorized for emergency vehicles only.
- Sirens, bells, and whistles.
- Any muffler cut-out or bypass that makes the exhaust system amplify or increase noise.
- More than two spotlights.
- More than two auxiliary lights in front.
- More than two fog lights in front.
- More than two cowl or fender lights.

Special Rules for Special Vehicles

The equipment on the vehicles listed below is governed by special rules. They also qualify for special registration. For more details, see Chapter 2 or contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise.

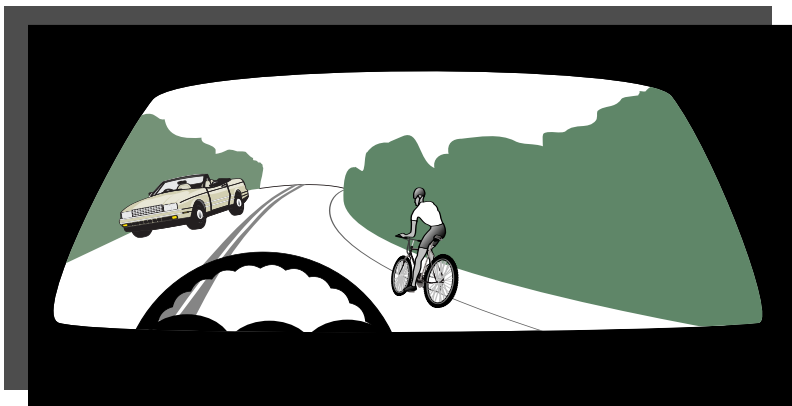
- **“Old Timer” Vehicles:** If a motor vehicle built before January 1, 1943, is primarily a collector’s item and is not used for regular transportation, it is classified as an "Old Timer."
- **“Classic” Vehicles:** Any motor vehicle more than 30 years old that does not qualify as an “Old Timer” is classified as a “Classic.”
- **“Street Rods”:** When certified by the United Street Rods of Idaho, any modernized motor vehicle built before 1949 or designed to resemble such a vehicle is classified as "Street Rod".

Study Questions

1. Which of the following are not required equipment on motor vehicles in Idaho: brakes, stop or brake lights, headlights, taillights, horns, mufflers, turn signals, rear view mirrors?
2. When do you need outside rear view mirrors on your car or truck?
3. What color must front turn signals be? Rear turn signals?
4. True or false: When traveling in a vehicle equipped with safety belts, everyone is required by Idaho law to protect children who are under four years of age and weigh less than 40 pounds by placing them in approved child safety seats.

CHAPTER 12

BICYCLES



Bicyclists have the same rights to the public roads as operators of other vehicles. They must also obey all traffic laws, highway signs, rules of the road, and safety requirements that can logically apply to bicycles.

Because bicycles are small, lightweight, and hard to see, drivers must be extra alert for them at all times. For tips on how to drive safely when bicycles are on the road, see Chapter 5, “Sharing the Road.”

Rules for Bicyclists

Idaho law states that bicyclists must:

- Use hand signals to communicate their actions to other vehicles. Exception: you do not have to signal when both hands are needed to operate your bicycle safely.
- Obey traffic signals, signs, and lane markings. Exception: bicyclists approaching stop signs must slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. They must yield to any vehicle that presents a hazard, but after slowing to a reasonable speed may cautiously make a turn or go on through the intersection. A bicyclist approaching a red light must stop before entering the intersection. However, after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way, a bicyclist may cautiously make a right-hand turn without stopping, or make a left-hand turn into a one-way roadway without stopping. Warning: City or county ordinances may be more restrictive. If in doubt, contact local authorities.
- Ride within posted speed limits or at a rate reasonable for existing conditions.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and sidewalks, and give an audible signal (bell, horn, voice) before passing a pedestrian.

- When riding at night, operate the bike with a white light visible from the front and a red reflector or light on the rear. Reflectors visible from the sides, usually on spokes or pedals, also are recommended. Reflective tape may be used for added visibility.
- Yield to pedestrians when riding on the sidewalk.
- Never ride more than two abreast except on bike paths.
- Never carry any article that prevents the cyclist from keeping one hand on the handlebars at all times.

Bicyclists must ride as close as possible to the right side of the street (either side on a one-way street) except:

- When passing another vehicle going the same direction.
- When avoiding obstacles.
- When preparing for a left turn.
- When riding in a lane too narrow for a bicycle and auto to travel safely side-by-side.

Additional Suggestions

Bicyclists should:

- Never park a bicycle on a sidewalk where it might interfere with walkers.
- Always ride on a bike path if one is provided.
- Carry no more persons than the number for which the bicycle is designed and equipped.
- Ride single file so they won't interfere with other traffic.
- Always wear a safety helmet to reduce the possibility of a head injury in case of an accident or collision.

Study Questions

1. What equipment must a bicycle have when ridden after dark?
2. What must a bicyclist do at a red light?
3. True or false. Bicyclists are always required to give hand signals when turning or stopping.
4. On which part of the roadway should a bicyclist ride?
5. Which traffic laws must a bicyclist obey?

CHAPTER 13

SKILLS TESTS



Purpose of the Skills Test

The skills test evaluates your ability to drive a vehicle safely, demonstrate good driving habits, and obey traffic laws in a variety of driving situations. It is the final step required in qualifying for the privilege of driving on Idaho's streets and highways.

Who Needs To Take A Skills Test?

Skills tests are required for:

- All new applicants who have never been licensed before.
- Driver's education graduates who have not applied for a driver's license within 90 days of completing an approved driver's education course.
- People whose licenses have been expired for one year or more.
- All applicants who have been driving under authority of an instruction permit.
- All drivers who have annual or semi-annual skills-test requirements required by the Idaho Transportation Department.
- All foreign-licensed applicants, unless Idaho has a reciprocal agreement with that country of issue.
- For motorcycle requirements see the *Idaho Motorcycle Operator's Manual*.

The skills test may also be required for:

- any applicant whose vision does not meet minimum standards,
- any applicant having any mental or physical disability that might affect the safe operation of a motor vehicle, and
- Any applicant, regardless of prior license, experience or age, when an examiner has concerns about the applicant's driving skills.

“What Does A Skills Test Include?”

Your skills test will take about 30 minutes to complete, and consist of two parts: the pre-drive check and the road test. Insure that the vehicle you provide for the skills test has valid proof of insurance and is properly registered.

- **Pre-drive check:** During this part of the test, you will be required to identify, locate, and demonstrate that the items listed below are in good working order:
 - Tires (must have at least 1/32" tread)
 - Brakes, including emergency brake
 - Head lights, brake lights, and turn signals (front and back)
 - Windshield and wipers
 - Defroster
 - Gauges
 - Seat belts
 - Horn
 - Rear view mirror(s)
 - Driver window
 - Emergency flashers
 - Passenger door
 - You will be required to demonstrate arm signaling for turning and stopping.
- **Road test:** During this part of the skills test, you will be required to demonstrate your ability to safely operate and obey traffic laws while performing the following driving maneuvers:
 - Street parking
 - Parking lot driving
 - Straight line backing
 - Business and residential driving
 - Freeway or highway driving
 - Four right turns and four left turns
 - Eight intersections

- A curve
- Lane changes

You will be tested on proper traffic checks, speed, acceleration and deceleration, stopping and stopping distances, lane changes, lane position, and vehicle spacing.

Note: (Please review chapters 4 through 11 of the *Idaho Driver's Manual*):

The tester will be making various marks on the score sheet as you are driving. Do not be distracted by the scoring, it does not necessarily indicate that an error has been made.

Unless you already have driving privileges, you must come to the skills test in a vehicle driven by a licensed driver. You will be allowed to drive without a driver's license only during the skills test. You will not have driving privileges allowing you to drive at any other time until your driver's license is issued.

No passengers or pets are permitted in the vehicle during the test. Car phones must be turned off or disconnected. Loose or valuable items should not be in the vehicle during the test.

How Do I Prepare For A Skills Test?

1. Study the *Idaho Driver's Manual*. (Pay special attention to chapters 4 through 11.)
2. Pass the Idaho written test (if required) and obtain a receipt allowing you to take the skills test (\$3.50).
3. Make sure that the vehicle to be used for the test is in good running condition, is clean and safe to operate, and that you have authorization to use it. Rental and dealer vehicles cannot be used. Proof of insurance is required to take the test.
4. Make an appointment with a certified skills tester. A list of skills testers in your area will be provided by the driver's license office when you make application. The skills-test fee of \$11.50 is to be paid directly to the skills tester.

What Must I Do To Pass The Test?

To pass the test, you cannot make more than 15 errors. You may fail the skills test if you commit a serious driving error, and will fail the test immediately for any collision or near collision, any dangerous action, serious or persistent violation of law, or lack of cooperation.

If you do not pass the skills test, you may re-schedule another test. A three-day waiting period is required by law and you will be required to obtain another receipt for \$3.50 and pay another \$11.50 test fee.

When you have passed your skills test, return to the driver's license office with the envelope which will be given to you by the skills tester. The driver's license office will then issue you a driver's license.

Tips

- Be considerate of the skills tester and be on time for your scheduled test.
- If you are not going to be able keep the appointment or you are going to be late, let the tester know.
- Wear comfortable and appropriate clothing and have a clean car.
- Try to relax but remain alert and listen carefully to the tester's instructions. The tester will not ask you to perform an illegal or unsafe maneuver during the test.

INDEX

Accelerator sticks	4-9
Accidents	4-10
Alcohol	6-2
Alcohol tests	3-2, 6-4
Driving under the influence	6-4
Backing	4-6, 7-12
Bicycles	5-3, 12-1
Blowouts	4-7
Brakes	11-1
Failure	4-8
Buses	
School	7-2, 7-3
Careless driving	7-9
Child safety devices	11-3
Commercial driver's license (see separate manual)	
Crosswalks	5-4
Curves	7-5
Drinking and driving	3-2, 6-2
Driver training	1-3
Driver's license	1-1
Age requirements	1-2
Change of address or name	1-9, 1-10
Duplicates	1-10
Fees	1-9
New residents	1-1
Non-residents	1-2
Parent's approval	1-7
Renewal	1-8, 1-9
Restricted	3-4
Suspension	3-2, 6-4
Drugs and driving	6-7
Emergency	
Vehicles	7-4
While driving	4-7
Equipment, required	
Trucks and autos	11-1
Fenders	11-3
Fog	9-2
Following distance	4-4
Freeway driving	10-1
Funeral processions	5-5
Handicapped drivers	7-8
Horns	11-2
Horseback riders	5-4

Hydroplaning	9-2
I.D. cards	1-3
Implied consent law	3-2, 6-4
Inattentive driving	7-9
Instruction permits	1-2
Lane changes	4-5, 7-10, 10-3
Lane usage	7-6, 7-9, 10-3
Large vehicles	5-2
Lights, vehicle	7-11, 11-1, 11-2
Livestock	7-11, 8-6
Mirrors, rear view	11-3
Motorcycles	5-1
Mufflers	11-3
Night driving	9-1
Parking	7-7
Passing	7-5, 7-6
Pavement markings	8-6
Pedestrians	5-3, 7-4, 8-5
Point system.	3-2, 3-3
Racing	6-8, 7-12
Railroad crossing	8-8
Rain and hydroplaning	9-2
Reckless driving	7-9
Registration, vehicle	2-1
Right-of-way and yielding	7-4
Blind persons	7-4
Emergency vehicles	7-4
Intersections	7-4, 7-5
Left turns	7-5
Pedestrians	7-4
Yield signs	7-4, 8-6
Running off pavement	4-9
Safety belts.	11-4
School buses	7-2, 7-3
Signals, slow or stop	4-5, 7-10, 11-2
Signals, traffic	7-1, 8-2
Signals, turn.	4-5, 7-10, 11-2
Signs, railway crossing	8-9
Signs, traffic	8-1
Skidding.	4-8
Skills tests	13-1
Preparing for	13-3
Requirements	13-1
Slow-moving vehicles	7-8, 8-6
Snow and ice	9-3

Speed limits	7-3, 7-4
Stopping distance.	4-5, 7-1, 7-3
Stopping, where required.	7-1, 7-2
Accidents	4-10, 7-3
Before turning	7-1
Emergency	7-2
Flagman	7-5
Flashing red signal	7-1, 8-2
Pedestrians	7-1
Railroad crossings	7-2, 8-8
School buses.	7-3
Stop signs	7-1, 8-1, 8-6
Yield signs	7-1, 8-1, 8-6
Titles, vehicle.	2-1
Traffic laws	7-1
Traffic signals	7-1, 8-2
Turning	7-5, 7-9
U-Turns	7-11
Unattended Vehicles.	4-6
Vehicle registration	2-1
Windows, windshields.	7-12, 11-2
Winter driving	9-3
Yielding	7-4

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